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ABSTRACT

This report compiles standardized data on child care supply and requests for care in California. The report provides county and statewide information based on responses from about 42,000 child care providers and more than 55,000 parents over a 3-month period and on data from state and federal government agencies, including: (1) demographic statistics; (2) county population; (3) children in poverty; (4) children with working parents; (5) average annual cost of full-time infant care; (6) percent of child care requests for different types of care; (7) number of licensed child care facilities and slots with various schedules of care; and (8) percent of income needed to pay for housing and one infant in a licensed center. The report begins with a summary of statewide findings regarding family needs and child care choice, and the work of resource and referral agencies. A new section, "A Day in the Life of Five California Families," describes how child care affects families. The bulk of the report consists of the county profiles, including a discussion of trends in the county and presentation of statistics. Findings indicate that licensed care is still in short supply statewide, infant slots are rare in licensed centers, the combined number of licensed child care slots grew at a slightly higher rate than in previous years, growth is fastest in licensed family child care homes, family child care homes are expanding, few licensed centers/homes offer evening care, the combined costs of housing and child care is a challenge for many, and care for an infant and a preschooler exceeds the cost of rent. (KB)

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The California Child Care Portfolio

2001

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The California Child Care Portfolio

2001

A compilation of data about child care in California, county by county

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January 2002

This third California Child Care Portfolio arrives to a world dramatically changed by global and national events. Government priorities have shifted: There is a renewed emphasis on security and defense, and the [illegible]ving economy is resulting in budget cuts for health and human services, at a time when mi[illegible]f Californians are in need. The welfare-to-work experiment that California embarked on in 1998 will begin to terminate assistance to thousands of families with children in early 2003, and it is unclear how those families will fare. As reauthorization of welfare reform nears, many questions remain about its ability to move people into the workforce and out of poverty.

For all working families, regardless of income, access to affordable, quality child care is essential. Yet millions of families in California, even those who can afford to pay, struggle to find the child care they need. For some, the shortage of care is the main problem, since waiting lists for child care centers and family child care homes are commonplace. For others, the cost of care is a major burden. Waiting lists for subsidized child care are especially long, due to insufficient funding. As in 1996 and 1998, the supply of licensed care in 2000 met only a small fraction of the demand, and infant care, care for children with special needs, and before- and after-school care are in very short supply. The reasons for this are not new: low compensation for child care workers; difficulty in attracting new caregivers and high attrition rates; and rising real estate costs, which decrease the availability of suitable facilities. Although there is growing awareness of the role that high-quality early care and education programs play in helping children be healthy, secure, and ready to learn, such awareness often translates into support for preschool programs, while the need for infant-toddler programs may not be recognized.

Ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable care may seem like an insurmountable challenge, but creative solutions are gaining momentum, thanks to cooperation among advocates, parents, providers, and voters. California's 61 community-based resource and referral (R&R) agencies are working with employers, law enforcement, labor unions, faith-based groups, and others in every county. The Children and Families Act of 1998 (Proposition 10) has directed hundreds of millions of dollars toward programs for young children; California's R&Rs work to ensure that some of this funding is destined to improve our child care system. Initiatives such as the Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (CARES) program, with funding from Prop. 10 and the Child Care Services and Quality legislation (AB 212), are improving quality and reducing turnover by providing financial incentives to child care professionals who stay in the field. Local R&R agencies are working with Community Care Licensing to increase recruitment of new child care providers by hosting licensing orientations in multiple languages. The R&Rs are also reaching out to license-exempt caregivers such as relatives, friends, and neighbors, with training, information, and assistance in becoming licensed providers.

The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network and its member agencies – which are funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division – keep the focus of child care policy on the state's working families and on the child care professionals who care for their children. In this 2001 Portfolio, we've included profiles of five California families to highlight the role that child care plays in shaping their daily lives. Each family faces distinct challenges, yet their stories have a common thread: the desire of all working parents to provide the best possible opportunities for their children, whether they are in someone else's care or in their home.

Every year, our member agencies come in contact with about 42,000 providers throughout the state and help more than 220,000 families, like the ones profiled here, find the child care that meets their needs. The data in this Portfolio was collected by our member agencies in 2000, and although local circumstances may have changed somewhat since that time, the overall picture is not very different. It is our hope that this Portfolio will contribute to a greater understanding of needs and help state policy makers and local communities make informed decisions about how to make affordable, quality care accessible to all children.

Sincerely,

Patty Siegel

Patty Siegel
Executive Director,
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

The 2001 Data

This Portfolio is intended to furnish readers with information necessary to understand child care issues, statewide and in each of California's 58 counties. With standardized data about the availability of child care and families' needs, this report can assist policy makers, community and business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and others to address the challenge of providing quality care and education to children across the state.

Every two years since 1997, the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network has published reliable information about the amount of licensed child care and the estimated demand for care in each county. Like previous Portfolios, this 2001 document consists of data gathered by the Network's 61 member resource and referral (R&R) agencies. The local R&Rs obtain their information from about 42,000 child care providers and from a sampling of more than 55,000 parents over a three-month period. The Portfolio also includes data from the U.S. Census, the California Department of Finance, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other sources. County profiles contain descriptions of the demographic, economic, political, and geographic factors that influence local child care situations. Together, this information serves as context for a larger discussion about the demand for and supply of child care.

Because they listen to families and providers every day in communities throughout the state, the R&Rs can go beyond the data to bring the stories of real families to the attention of the public. The R&Rs are familiar with the decisions parents and providers make that determine the quality of care for millions of children. They can pinpoint local concerns and detect trends not yet obvious in the aggregate data.

Parents' voices are included in each county profile and a new section, "A Day in the Life of Five California Families," describes how child care affects families. Whether the subject is a community's shortage of child care or escalating child care costs, the focus of this Portfolio is the experience of families as they search for, find, lose, and struggle to pay for child care.

How the Data was Collected

R&Rs' close ties to families, communities, and child care providers enable them to compile standardized data about child care. The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, an association of 61 R&R agencies that supports recruitment and training efforts and advocates for quality, affordable, and accessible child care throughout the state, collected and analyzed the data for this Portfolio from its members in 2000.

The findings related to the supply of child care are based on R&Rs' databases of licensed child care providers in January 2000. These databases are continuously updated. For the most part, the information gathered by the R&Rs does not include child care that is exempt from state licensing requirements (such as care provided by family members, neighbors, or nannies).

Information about requests for child care comes from R&Rs' documentation of calls from parents. Each year nearly a quarter of a million parents contact these agencies for child care referrals. Parents provide information about the specific types of care they need and their work schedules. These calls represent an important sample of information about families. But because not all families who use or need child care call their local R&R, the Portfolio also presents county and state data about the number of children under the age of 13 who live with two working parents or a single employed parent, according to the U.S. Census. The aggregate of these and other pieces of information bring a more complete picture to the state's likely need for child care. For a complete list of sources used in this Portfolio, see "Understanding the County Data Pages."

The data, presented statewide and county by county, indicates important trends and needs.

- **Licensed care is still in short supply.**
  Only one slot at a licensed child care center or family child care home exists for every 4.6 children with working parents.

- **Infant slots are rare in licensed centers.**
  Statewide, just 5 percent of licensed center slots are for infants.

- **The combined number of licensed child care slots grew at a slightly higher rate than in previous years.**
  From 1998 to 2000, the total number of licensed slots grew 8.4 percent, up from 6.8 percent from 1996 to 1998.

- **Growth is fastest in licensed family child care homes.**
  From 1998 to 2000, the number of slots in licensed family child care homes grew 19 percent, up from 11 percent from 1996 to 1998. The number of slots in licensed centers grew 3 percent, down from 5 percent from 1996 to 1998.

- **Family child care homes are expanding.**
  Although the number of licensed family child care homes grew just 4 percent from 1998 to 2000, the number of slots at these homes jumped 19 percent. (Family child care homes now provide 35 percent of all licensed child care slots in the state, up from 31 percent in 1996.)

- **Few licensed centers and homes offer evening care.**
  The number of licensed centers and family child care homes that offer care during non-traditional hours (weekends, evenings) decreased slightly from 1998 to 2000.

- **Minimum wage doesn't cover basic necessities.**
  Fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment plus the cost of child care for an infant in a licensed center would cost about $16,667 per year. Minimum wage was $11,960 in 2000.

- **The combined cost of housing and child care is a challenge for many families.**
  Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit and child care for an infant in a licensed child care center consumes about 40 percent of the median household income in California.

- **Care for an infant and a preschooler exceeds the cost of rent.**
  In every county in California, the cost of putting an infant and a preschooler in full-time care is greater than the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

What the Data *Doesn't* Show

Although the Portfolio provides the most detailed snapshot available of the licensed child care picture throughout California, it does not tell the whole story. Until more research can capture the entire child care marketplace, important questions remain.

How many licensed slots are available?
Portfolio data shows that in most counties, the supply of licensed care does not meet demand. However, the supply data portrays a best-case scenario because it is based on the assumption that licensed providers keep all of their slots open. In fact, many child care centers and family child care homes do not operate at full capacity because of the shortage of qualified staff and the complexities of serving young children.

How many children are in license-exempt care?
The R&R data shows the supply of licensed care, but thousands of families rely on license-exempt care provided by relatives, friends, neighbors, and nannies. Some may find license-exempt care more convenient or flexible; others may choose it because of cost or quality considerations. Because the R&Rs serve all families and children, they have worked hard to encourage license-exempt providers to attend training workshops in child health, safety, and development.

How many new slots have been created?
The numbers shown in the Portfolio reflect the *total supply* of licensed slots. Yet throughout the state, many child care centers have closed due to their inability to cover rising operating costs, while turnover among providers remains high. Despite efforts to recruit and retain licensed providers, new providers often replace others who have left, keeping the supply stagnant at best.

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Family Needs and Child Care Choices

Every day, phone counselors at local child care resource and referral (R&R) agencies help parents with a range of child care issues, from finding care to identifying quality. For new parents, the child care marketplace can be especially bewildering. Because of the shortage of care everywhere in the state, waiting lists are commonplace; securing a slot in a child care program can seem as tough as getting into an Ivy League school. Phone counselors say there are two questions they hear almost constantly: Where can I find high-quality care for my child and how can I get help to pay for it?

The monthly child care bill represents a significant portion of many families' income; for some, it is equal to or near the cost of housing. Along with child care expenses, housing costs have continued to rise, even in rural communities. In the Sierra foothills, long-time rentals have been sold to vacationers seeking second homes; in other areas, increases in population have not been matched by construction of affordable family housing.

Demand for child care rises along with the cost of living.

Thousands of California parents are caught between their need to work and the expense of child care. According to estimates based on the U.S. Census figures, about 1.5 million children in California under the age of six lived in homes where both parents or a single head of household were employed. Child care is essential for working families and for the state's economy as a whole: A recent study commissioned by the National Economic Development and Law Center in Oakland found that annually, the child care industry enables California's working parents to earn $13 billion. Yet little attention has been paid to ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of affordable care to meet the apparent need.

Investing in quality care for children brings the greatest return.

The state's rapid economic growth in the 1990s and the accompanying low unemployment rates exposed the inability of the child care system to fully support families, even in the best of times. Now, with looming budget cuts that are likely to have a great impact on the most vulnerable families, the investment to ensure that young children are adequately prepared for school is even more important. Countless studies have shown that birth to age five is the most critical stage in a child's brain development; in California, a significant portion of children under five spend 35 or more hours in child care each week. Thus, it is crucial that the care they have access to is safe and nurturing and includes age-appropriate and stimulating activities provided by trained, caring adults.

Despite research underscoring the benefits of quality care, access to it is often limited. The data in this Portfolio illustrates the problems created by the scarcity of licensed care in California, where the number of licensed slots met only 22 percent of estimated demand in 2000. What the numbers don't tell us is what working families are doing when they can't find or afford licensed care. Nor does the data tell us about the quality of the care that exists. While we know that many parents choose to have their children cared for by relatives, friends, or neighbors (or for those who can afford it, nannies) – all considered license-exempt care – little is understood about how parents make these child care choices and how considerations of quality and schedule play into their decisions. More research is needed before we can fully understand the dynamics of the child care marketplace, particularly from the demand side.

The Cost of Care and Its Effect On Family Budgets

"Why must families prove that they are poor in order to get help paying for child care? When children are in elementary school or high school or a public university, government foots most of the bill – regardless of family income. What is so different about preschool? Child care isn't welfare; it's a vital support for families. It's brain food for future generations. The early years are some of the most vital years in life. All children need careful, loving attention when they are young. All families need help paying the high cost of early care and education."

– Louise Stoney, Alliance for Early Childhood Finance

According to the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network's 61 member agencies, which provide local information and resources in every county, parents are struggling to afford child care. In 2000, the average annual cost of full-time, licensed care for an infant up to 24 months old, in a center in California, was $8,521. For low-income parents, market rates for child care take up a large part of their take-home pay; the high cost of care is also a burden for middle-income parents. The cost of infant care rose 30 percent between 1998 and 2000, and experts say this trend will continue since most child care providers already operate with thin margins.

Recognizing child care's importance for working families, state policy makers designed CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work system, to include a guaranteed, but time-limited child care subsidy for participating families. This subsidy has been an essential support for CalWORKs recipients, most of whom are employed in low-paying jobs even after leaving the program. Thousands of other low-income families who are not part of CalWORKs continue to struggle to pay for care. The child care subsidy programs for these families are severely underfunded and an estimated 250,000 eligible children are on waiting lists.

In addition, CalWORKs' five-year limit on benefits is fast approaching. The loss of this assistance will be dramatic for families, forcing them to choose among competing needs. According to the Department of Social Services, while more than half of those who went off cash assistance in early 1999 were employed, their earnings were far below what it costs to support a family in California.

The struggle to find affordable, quality child care is not limited to low-income families. In 2000, the cost of care for just one infant at a licensed center was 20 percent of the state's median income of $42,472[1]. The high cost of care prompts some to decide that working simply doesn't make financial sense. In a reversal of a 24-year trend, the labor force participation rate of mothers with infants dropped in 2000. It is likely that at least some of these parents were unable to locate appropriate, affordable child care. Still, most mothers *are* in the workforce; according to the 2000 Census, the majority of first-time mothers return to work within one year of the birth of a child.

Quality care makes a lasting impact

Consistently, research into human development has found that the first few years of a child's life are critical to brain development. Quality child care plays an important role in teaching language, social, and analytical skills that prepare children for school. Studies show that the positive effects of quality child care can last into adulthood, especially for at-risk children.

Compared to their peers, at-risk children who attended quality early-intervention child care programs as preschoolers are:

- 33% less likely to be arrested as juveniles
- 42% less likely to be arrested for violent crime
- 40% less likely to lose a grade in school
- 41% less likely to be in special education
- 51% less likely to be a victim of child abuse or neglect
- 29% more likely to complete high school

Society can expect reduced future costs related to crime, welfare dependency, and special education, resulting in:

- a return of more than $7 for every $1 invested in quality early-intervention child care
- up to $47,759 in savings for each child participating in the programs
- up to $2.6 billion in savings for every 100,000 children participating in the programs

Source: The Chicago Longitudinal Study, 2000. Since 1986, researchers have followed 900 children from low-income families who participated in the Chicago School District's Child-Parent Center Program beginning at age three and 500 low-income children of the same age who did not attend the program.

[1] California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Network) calculation based on U.S. Census Bureau, "Estimated Median Household Income by State: California 1997" and 2000 California inflation adjustment.

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Child Care Expenses Add to Burden of Housing Costs

"Throughout California, rising housing prices mean that families have less to spend on other necessities such as child care. With each passing year, our commitment to fulfilling these basic needs becomes more critical to the health of our families and communities."

– Carol Galante, CEO, BRIDGE Housing

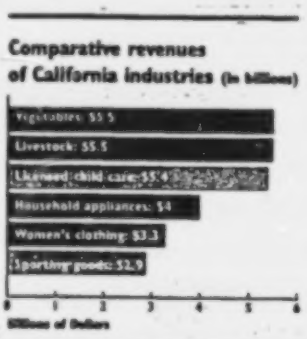
Exacerbating the financial burden many families face is the increasing cost of housing. According to the California Association of Realtors, the median price of a single-family home was $201,000 in 1998; by 2000, it had jumped 21 percent, to $243,000. In several Bay Area counties, the median home price topped $500,000 in 2000. And despite the economic slowdown, home prices are expected to continue rising, thanks to growing demand and a dearth of affordable housing.

While low interest rates have enabled many middle-income families to buy homes in California, the majority of renters (particularly low-income earners) find that their wages have not kept pace with housing costs. According to the Network's calculations[2], a worker in California must earn more than $21.50 per hour – far more than the 2002 minimum wage of $6.75 – to afford fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment and still cover other family expenses. In fact, fair market rent plus the average cost of infant care would completely wipe out the annual earnings of a minimum-wage worker.

The high cost of housing and child care may be influencing where parents choose to put their children in care. R&Rs throughout California report that many CalWORKs families use child care subsidies to pay for license-exempt care provided by relatives and friends. At the other end of the economic spectrum, many high-income families choose in-home care provided by nannies, who are also license-exempt. Parents are choosing license-exempt care for a variety of reasons. For some, cost may be a factor, particularly if the caregiver is a relative. But the accessibility, convenience, and flexible schedules of license-exempt care can also make it more desirable than licensed care, which is not always available during the hours parents need it or close to families' homes.

Child Care and the State's Economy

According to a 2001 report from the National Economic Development and Law Center, licensed child care enables California's working parents to earn at least $13 billion annually and generates billions more in economic activity and tax revenues. Contributing directly and indirectly to productivity in the state, the licensed child care industry pumps an estimated $65 billion into the economy, more than the motion picture industry.



Source: National Economic Development and Law Center, "Child Care and Its Impact on California's Economy." Based on 1999 industry expenditures reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

[2] Calculations based on estimated statewide average figures from self sufficiency data. "The Self Sufficiency Standard for California," by Diana Pearce. November 2000.

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Quality Care is Scarce

"Research has shown that children thrive in environments where they can develop trusting relationships with caregivers who provide nurturing and appropriate stimulation through talk, play, and other activities. It is critical to consider these early years for what they are – the foundation of the development of each person. Other countries have invested far more than the U.S. in understanding and supporting the years from zero to three."

– Deborah Phillips, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, Georgetown University

Balancing financial and other considerations in choosing child care can be tough for parents, who have long understood what many policy makers are only now becoming aware of: Preparing children for success in life – and particularly in school – begins at birth. The quality of care that a child receives depends in large part on the training and experience of the provider; the appropriateness of activities for a child's age and development; the provision of a safe and nurturing environment; an appropriate child-to-staff ratio; health and nutrition; and parental support. Ensuring that all of these elements are present in a caregiving situation is important because research has demonstrated that the quality of care, from the beginning of a child's life, makes an enormous difference in a child's cognitive, emotional, and physical development.

Yet the availability of well-qualified caregivers with training in early childhood development is decreasing. Licensed child care centers are not expanding, citing rising costs and the difficulty of finding teachers with early childhood education training who are willing to work for low salaries. In some cases, despite huge demand for care in local communities, centers aren't operating at full capacity because of their inability to find and hire qualified workers. Licensed care for infants and for children with special needs is particularly difficult to find. That's because providing care for infants requires one caregiver for every four children under two years old, a staffing requirement that is necessary for quality care, but financially unsustainable for many centers and family child care homes. Thus, in order to be financially viable, many centers do not accept infants or they maintain just a few slots for those under two, leaving the majority of slots for preschoolers. As a result, only 14 percent of licensed centers in the state have any slots for children under 24 months.

Unfortunately, quality care for infants isn't the only type of care in short supply. In communities throughout the state, parents struggle to find providers who can care for a child with special needs. Providers say they are seeing more children with special needs as well as a greater variety of needs, from physical and developmental disabilities to chronic illnesses and behavioral issues. There is growing recognition of the benefits of early intervention for children with special needs and including them in quality care environments that serve other children. However, local R&Rs note that few providers have the training and facilities to accommodate these children. In rural communities where there may be only a handful of licensed providers, parents of children with special needs report that their ability to find care determines whether they are able to work outside the home.

Before- and after-school care is also in high demand. Many school-age children and their parents rely on programs located at public school sites to provide a safe place to do homework, play sports, and participate in enrichment activities in the hours that precede and follow the school day. But in many communities, particularly those with a high percentage of low-income families, school-age programs have long waiting lists or don't exist at all. To help meet this need, many family child care providers set aside spaces for school-age children (69 percent of providers in 2000, up from 66 percent in 1998). In addition to family child care, many nonprofit and community-based organizations have also developed after-school programs. However, the lack of transportation between school sites and after-school programs limits participation.

Staffing shortage limits growth in areas of high need

"The cornerstone of child care that promotes healthy development is the presence of consistent, sensitive, well-trained, and well-compensated caregivers. Yet, because of low wages, limited benefits, and few opportunities for advancement, few providers can afford to stay in the field. Child care programs struggle to retain their most skilled and trained caregivers. Children experience turnover as the loss of a trusted caregiver. A skilled, stable workforce is critical to quality child care."

– Marci Young, Executive Director, Center for the Child Care Workforce

Recruiting and retaining qualified child care professionals in centers and family child care homes continues to be a major challenge. Trained caregivers are essential to quality child care, helping young children learn; responding to their emotional needs; identifying potential health, developmental, or behavioral issues; and working with parents to understand the changing needs of their children. Yet despite the importance of this work, the average annual salary for a child care worker in California is just $17,420, far lower than the starting salary for most elementary school teachers and less than half of the state median income. The low wages paid to child care workers have resulted in high turnover, which hurts children by limiting the formation of stable relationships with caregivers, which are essential for emotional development. According to a recent study of 75 child care centers in three Northern California counties[1], turnover among staff is alarmingly high: three-quarters of all teachers in 1996 were no longer on the job in 2000. The study also revealed that on the whole, teachers who replaced those who left had less formal education and early childhood training.

College Tuition: A Bargain Compared to Child Care

From preschools to after-school programs to infant care and early education, what is commonly referred to as "child care" is more than just *care*. The majority of California's young children spend a significant portion of each day with someone other than their parents. These children need care, but they also need opportunities to learn, to build relationships, and to grow.

Child care ranks among the largest expenses for young families, rivaling what even middle-income families spend on rent or food. More than half of all families must have both parents or a single head of household working outside the home in order to pay their bills. A majority of parents say that finding affordable, quality child care is a serious problem and the inability to find suitable care can cost some parents their jobs when they cannot report to work as scheduled.

Average annual cost of child care, compared to other expenses

Tuition + fees at California State University:	$1,428
Tuition + fees at the University of California:	$4,261
Rent for a two-bedroom housing unit:	$8,146
Full-time care for a child under two in a licensed center:	$8,521
Full-time care for two children (one infant and one preschooler) in a licensed center:	$14,440

Sources: *Sacramento Bee*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent History File; Network 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey.

Quality care prepares children for school

"None of us would like it if, for 13 years, we were forced to go to a job we hated because we had no real preparation. So how can we possibly do the same to children? We know that high quality early care and education programs provide substantial preparation for success at their job – going to school. It's the best chance many kids have for fulfilling their potential."

– Karen Hill Scott, Ed.D., Karen Hill Scott Associates

The forces that impact the quality of child care in California must be examined closely, particularly in the context of increasing concern that children are entering kindergarten without the skills that prepare them to learn. There is mounting evidence that children who attend quality child care programs, where caring, qualified professionals engage children in play and learning activities, have a better chance at academic success than children cared for in environments where quality isn't high. The impact of quality care is particularly pronounced for children from low-income families. But, while emphasizing school-readiness, it is important to remember what brain development research has shown: Early learning starts at birth. The commitment to quality care by parents and providers must also begin at birth.

[1] Center for the Child Care Workforce and U.C. Berkeley's Institute of Industrial Relations

Efforts to expand and improve care are having an impact

Despite the shortage of quality care in California, there are reasons to be hopeful about the future. The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network, through the Child Care Initiative Project at local R&Rs, has helped create more than 28,000 slots in family child care homes over the past 15 years, and provided training to more than 51,000 providers. Mindful of the growing number of families turning to relatives, friends, and neighbors to care for their children, the R&Rs are also reaching out to license-exempt caregivers by including them in training opportunities and encouraging them to become licensed. In some communities, R&Rs have collaborated with employment development departments to help CalWORKs participants obtain a license to provide child care.

R&Rs, along with many other child care advocates, are working to increase compensation for child care professionals in California. In 2000, state legislation provided $15 million for CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability), a program that promotes retention by giving stipends to providers who attend training workshops and college classes, as well as providers with substantial experience in the field. This funding has been supplemented in many counties by Prop. 10, the tobacco tax passed by California voters in 1998. Prop. 10 and other funds are also supporting consumer education efforts that help parents become more knowledgeable about quality care.

There is also increasing recognition of the difficulty that many child care centers and family child care homes have in developing and improving their facilities in the face of rising real estate and construction costs in California. The state legislature has earmarked $42 million to assist them and Prop. 10 funding is encouraging the development and expansion of child care facilities in many counties. Despite these efforts the lack of affordable, accessible care remains acute.

But the efforts demonstrate that concern about the welfare of children requires support from partners representing diverse communities and constituencies. Employers are beginning to understand that access to quality child care affects their employees' productivity. Labor unions are starting to include child care benefits in contract negotiations. And the law enforcement community has begun to lobby for support for quality child care and early education as a way to prevent youth violence and incarceration by putting children on the right track early in life. Although much remains to be done, these partnerships are broadening the understanding that quality child care is not just a support for parents but a critical element in a child's growth and development and an important part of a community's economic and social health and well-being.

"If we really want to prevent crime, we have to be as ready to guarantee youngsters a space in a quality child care program as we are to guarantee criminals room and board in a prison cell."

– Alameda Police Chief Burnham Matthews,
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *California*, an association of more than 250 sheriffs, police chiefs, district attorneys, and crime victims

Low-income families require child care assistance

Welfare reform has helped to bring child care subsidies to many California families who could not work without assistance. Families in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, and other low-income families who receive child care assistance use their subsidies to pay for diverse child care programs. Some select a licensed child care center or family child care home. Others have relatives, friends, or neighbors care for their children. This is called license-exempt care. The convenience and accessibility of this informal care often makes it the best solution for families, but sometimes this informality makes it less stable for parents as license-exempt providers might not have the same training or commitment as those who have decided to pursue child care as a profession. However, license-exempt care is often the only option, given the limited number of licensed centers and family child care homes open during evening and non-traditional hours.

Percent of children in license-exempt care among families receiving child care subsidies:

County	Percent	Number of Children
Humboldt	33%	510
San Francisco	57%	2,505
Sacramento	50%	8,576
Los Angeles	48%	28,852
San Diego	39%	6,902
California (est.)	**44%**	**149,662**

Note: Data listed here represents all subsidies (CalWORKs and Alternative Payment programs). Figures are estimates, based on administrative data. Sources: CDD, DSS, and local agencies.

Resource and Referral Agencies at the Forefront

For nearly 30 years, resource and referral (R&R) agencies have been helping California's families find child care. Supported by funding from the California Department of Education, Child Development Division, these agencies are located in every county in the state. They help families find child care that best meets their needs, recruit and train child care providers, and collect data from callers and child care providers. In some counties there are multiple R&Rs that each serve designated portions of their county. All of today's R&Rs provide a variety of services – to parents seeking child care, to providers seeking professional development opportunities, and to communities seeking support for their youngest residents.

The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Since 1980, the California Child Care Resource & Referral Network has supported member resource and referral agencies while playing a lead role in spreading awareness about child care issues around the state and nation. The Network is a private, nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, with satellite offices in Los Angeles, Chico, Hanford, and Sacramento. It promotes affordable, accessible, quality child care by:

- collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on child care;
- educating legislators, state and local governments, community leaders, and other key decision-makers about child care issues;
- initiating innovative programs that bring more child care providers into the profession and prepare them to deliver quality care;
- producing educational materials, information, and curricula for parents and child care providers;
- managing TrustLine, California's criminal and child abuse registry background check system, for in-home and license-exempt child care providers.

All state-funded resource and referral agencies:

- maintain up-to-date databases with information about licensed child care providers in centers and family child care homes in every community (licensing itself is done by the state Department of Social Services);
- respond to parents' questions about their child care options and make appropriate referrals, without recommendations, thereby allowing parents to explore and judge for themselves what's appropriate for their children;
- work with child care providers to develop the child care profession through training and recruitment;
- educate parents about the components of quality child care and about whether they qualify for child care subsidies [most R&Rs also administer the state's Alternative Payment (voucher) program];
- inform the community and its leaders about child care issues and concerns, while playing an important role in planning for high-quality, accessible, affordable care for families.

A Day in the Life

of Five California Families

The five families whose daily lives are documented on the following pages represent hundreds of thousands of California families who depend on quality, affordable, accessible child care – for infants, preschoolers, school-age children, and children with special needs. In each case the search for child care – that met the needs of children and the work schedules of parents – was not easy.

The Scarcity of Infant-Toddler Care

A grandmother helps out after an unsuccessful search for licensed care

The Blanco family was lucky with child care the first two times around. When Christian Blanco, now 4, and Victoria, 3, were babies, the child care center they still attend today had room for infants as well as preschoolers. But when their mom, Vanessa Blanco, was seven months pregnant with Allyson, the center closed its infant program and the family's luck ran out.

In Riverside, a city of more than 255,000 residents, Vanessa Blanco spent three months visiting dozens of child care centers and family child care homes to find a safe and nurturing place for her infant.

"I literally went out every single day to look for child care," Vanessa says. "From what I could tell, more than half of the licensed centers and homes didn't accept infants. Those that did were full. Invariably, when I found some place I really liked, there would be a waiting list of six months or longer. I thought I was going to lose my job because I couldn't find child care in time to go back to work."

A Mother's Search for Infant Care

Although Vanessa Blanco did not keep detailed notes of her three months of searching for child care for her daughter, the following numbers are close approximations of her experience, based on her account.

Number of licensed child care centers and family child care homes visited:	45
Number that did not accept infants:	25
Number that accepted infants but had no immediate openings:	17
Number that had openings but did not meet her criteria:	3
Number of licensed child care facilities that Allyson finally attended:	0

Vanessa Blanco never found licensed care for Allyson. The toddler has been cared for by her grandmother.

"My kids are my top priority above everything ... so I need to make sure that if I'm not the one taking care of them, the provider who does is treating them well."

– Vanessa Blanco

Paying for infant care is a challenge

Vanessa Blanco's experience seeking child care for Allyson reflects what many California parents encounter when trying to return to work after the birth of a child: a severe shortage of infant care. Thirty-four percent of parents' requests to resource and referral agencies in 2000 were for infant care. But statewide, only one slot out of 20 in a licensed child care center is reserved for a baby under 24 months old. State regulations require a high ratio of adults to children for infant care, which helps ensure that California's youngest children are in safe, nurturing environments. But that makes care for infants expensive both for providers and the parents who pay them. Statewide, family child care homes traditionally serve more infants than child care centers do (of all infants in licensed child care, 58 percent are in family child care homes while 42 percent are in centers[4]), but anecdotal evidence suggests even this supply of infant care falls far short of the demand.

The average annual cost of infant care in a licensed center in Riverside County is almost $7,500. Some mothers opt to stay home while their children are very young. But as costly as infant care can be, many families cannot survive without a mother's income. The Blanco family now receives a monthly child care subsidy of approximately $1,400, but with state budget uncertainties, Vanessa Blanco worries that she may soon have no way of paying for child care.

The earliest years matter

During the hot summer months, Vanessa and her youngest daughter visited site after site, searching for infant care that met her standards for individual care, cleanliness, and safety. Her return to work was imminent, but Vanessa refused to compromise in her search for high-quality care for her daughter's formative years. "My kids are my top priority above everything – my work, my life – so I need to make sure that if I'm not the one taking care of them, the provider who does is treating them well."

Vanessa's desire for quality care for her children is backed by an ever-growing body of research showing that critical brain development takes place during a child's first three years of life. The positive and negative effects of high- or low-quality child care have been demonstrated to have lasting effects on children, particularly those from low-income or at-risk homes. In fact, high-quality child care in the earliest years has been linked to later academic success in school and healthy relationships with peers and adults.

Vanessa Blanco was never able to find a licensed child care facility for Allyson. Instead, the toddler is cared for by her grandmother, who changed her work schedule from full-time to part-time in order to care for her. Now Allyson is a few months away from joining her siblings in preschool. Her mother, meanwhile, wishes better luck to other families searching for infant care.

[4] Calculation by Network based on enrollment figures from 2001 Regional Market Rate Survey.

Finding the Right Kind of Child Care

A couple encounters limited options for a daughter with special needs

Four-year-old Sydney Hiroto waves merrily at drivers in passing vehicles and fidgets less than the typical preschooler in a car seat. She's comfortable on the road because she spends up to two hours a day there. Sydney climbs in and out of cars, buses, and the family SUV six times each day as she shuffles from her Fremont home to child care, speech therapy, and outings.

A Day in the Life of four-year-old Sydney Hiroto

7:15 a.m.	Wake up, watch cartoons, get ready for preschool
8:15 a.m.	Drive with mom or dad to preschool
Noon	Ride bus to speech therapy program
3:40 p.m.	Ride bus back to preschool
5:30 p.m.	Mom or dad picks up
5:45 p.m.	Depart for swim class
6 to 6:30 p.m.	Swimming lesson
7 to 7:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 to 8 p.m.	Bath
8 to 8:30 p.m.	Story time
8:30 p.m.	Lights out

Sydney, who experienced temporary hearing loss as a toddler and was diagnosed with a speech delay at age two, is one of more than 651,000 California children with special needs[5]. Child care providers with training in caring for children with special needs are in high demand from parents statewide. Although it is illegal to refuse child care services to these children, parents often report difficulty finding care for them. Some parents say there aren't enough providers with experience to handle children with a range of physical, emotional, and other needs. Other families struggle to find flexible part-time care for the hours when their children are between therapy sessions or special instruction.

Sydney's parents, Russ and Jill, both work full-time. Although infant care is also scarce, according to the Hirotos, finding care for their youngest child, nine-month-old Wesley, was relatively easy. Locating child care for Sydney, on the other hand, was very challenging.

"About a year ago, Sydney's caregiver gave us less than a month's notice when she decided to teach in the public schools," says Russ. "We called more than 20 places to find care for her. All had problems: Either they were full, or didn't take this age, or were way too expensive, or didn't offer part-time care."

[5] Source: *Los Angeles Times*, "Special Education in State is Failing on Many Fronts." December 12, 1999.

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"We called more than 20 places to find care for Sydney. ... Either they were full, or didn't take children Sydney's age, or were way too expensive, or didn't offer part-time care."

– Russ Hiroto

Shortage of care puts strain on families

When finding appropriate child care appeared unlikely, the Hirotos considered the possibility of having Jill leave her sales job to stay home to care for their daughter. After careful deliberation, they agreed that Jill should keep her job, in part because her employer supports families as they balance work and family life.

"Having a family and being able to work are both important to me. I come from a family where education and career were stressed as attainable goals," Jill says. "I feel strongly about my job, but when your child has special needs, she comes first."

Recent research indicates that mothers of children with special needs find it difficult to return to work; many stay home because they cannot find appropriate care.[6] But finding care is only part of the challenge. California families with children with special needs spend more, on average, on child care than they do on medical expenses.[7]

After searching for two months, the Hirotos found an opening at a preschool that had experience caring for children with speech delays. Sydney's parents take turns driving her to preschool on their way to work. At lunchtime, a school bus takes her to a speech therapist who helps her increase her language and communication skills. The bus brings Sydney back to preschool and her parents pick her up to take her to swimming lessons in the evening. Sydney's parents are already planning for the next challenge. Although Sydney won't start kindergarten for one year, the Hirotos are already looking for part-time school-age care.

Employer Support Makes a Big Difference for Families

Jill Hiroto is glad to see people in her company occasionally leave work early to catch a child's Little League game or a dance recital. And she's thrilled that her company opened an office near her home so that she has a short commute. When she's not traveling on business, her close proximity to home allows Jill to check in on her nine-month-old son, Wesley, and his nanny during lunch. She can also participate once in a while in preschool activities, like a field trip to a pumpkin patch with her daughter, Sydney, thanks to a flexible work schedule. All of these things are available because her employer, Showtime Networks Inc., has made a commitment to helping employees balance work and family life.

By offering flexible schedules, telecommuting options, dependent care spending accounts, on-site child care, personal days, or job-sharing programs, companies like Showtime are addressing working parents' needs. "I would hope that the majority of companies are doing similar things," Jill says, "but I know that's not the case because people tell me all the time how lucky I am."

Jill is correct: In 2001, a "Women of Silicon Valley" survey found that 63 percent of respondents believed their employers were "not at all" or "not very" successful at providing access to affordable child care; 41 percent gave companies low marks for failing to make work life compatible with personal life. And *Working Mother* magazine's 2001 list of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" includes only six California companies. (Viacom, Showtime's parent company, made the list in 2000.)

Research shows that women who work for companies that support them in balancing work and family are more satisfied with their jobs, take fewer sick days, work later into their pregnancies, and are more likely to come back to work after childbirth than women at companies that are not supportive. Such evidence has led some business leaders to understand that assisting families like the Hirotos with child care needs is good business.

[6] *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, "Child care characteristics of infants with and without special needs: Comparisons and concerns." 1998.

[7] Public Policy Institute of California, *Expensive Children in Poor Families: The Intersection of Childhood Disabilities and Welfare*. 2000.

Round-the-Clock Child Care

A parent needs more than just 'day' care to support her family

For Jamie Nelson, a licensed vocational nurse in Los Angeles with three children (Carl, 14; Jamiyah, 7; and Darrick, 2), the work day begins at 7 p.m. and ends 12 hours later. Add in time to commute, run errands, and sleep for three or four hours, and Jamie Nelson's need for child care becomes clear.

For many California families, the term "day care" has faded with the 9-to-5 work day. An estimated 2.5 million Californians now have jobs that require evening, late-night, or early-morning shifts; rotating schedules; or weekend work. Many of these workers are parents who need a safe, nurturing environment for their children. Unfortunately, a mere 3 percent of California's licensed child care centers – and fewer licensed family child care homes than in 1998 – offered care during non-traditional hours in 2000.

Trading Time for Income

	Jamie Nelson	Average American	Difference
Weekly hours of work	Up to 72	40	Up to four-fifths more work time
Weekly hours commuting	7.5	4	Nearly 90 percent longer commute
Weekly hours of sleep	30	49	About two-thirds the sleep
Housework/ personal time	23	48	Half the personal time
Time toddler spends in some-one else's care	71%	15%	Needs nearly five times the amount of child care

Sources: U.S. Census Survey 2000; National Sleep Foundation, 2001; Center for Work and the Family; Urban Institute, 2000.

Jamie sometimes works six 12-hour shifts in one week, covering night shifts at hospitals throughout Los Angeles. Family members and neighbors often stay with her children overnight and help them get ready for school in the morning. But when these arrangements fall apart, Jamie turns to her youngest son's child care provider, whose licensed family child care home operates around the clock.

"She is not just a child care provider. She's my friend, my helper – the person I can always count on," Jamie says. "I feel blessed to have found her."

"She is not just a child care provider.
She's my friend, my helper
– the person I can always count on.
I feel blessed to have found her."

– Jamie Nelson

Long commutes add to the need for extended-hour child care

Increasing the time Jamie spends away from home is her drive to and from work, often during rush hour. As she is called to different hospitals, her time in the car varies, but both of the sites where she works most frequently are more than an hour away from home during peak commuting hours.

Like Jamie Nelson, working parents throughout the state need extra hours of child care to cover the time they spend driving or taking public transportation. At the same time, taking children to child care or picking them up can lengthen commutes by an hour or more, depending on traffic or the number of stops needed to get to multiple providers. Two of the nation's worst commutes are in Los Angeles and the Bay Area, where roughly half of all California children live. Even in these areas, however, the majority of child care centers close between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., limiting options for parents like Jamie.

Parents work rotating shifts, but child care is not always available

Despite the fact that most child care providers earn low wages, the cost of care, especially care during non-traditional hours, is a large burden for many families like the Nelsons. "I work hard with long hours, but it seems like I earn just enough to pay my bills," Jamie says. "Raising three kids is expensive and child care is a big part of that." The need for weekend, evening, and overnight care is especially high among low-income families, as many entry-level jobs require employees to work less desirable shifts and schedules that change weekly. According to the U.S. Census, 41 percent of low-income mothers work non-traditional hours.[8] In California, rapid economic and population expansion over the past decade have brought more retail outlets and restaurants, most of which require employees to work evening and weekend shifts. Twenty-four-hour operations at warehouses, call centers, prisons, and even casinos have increased the need for all hours of care.

On a typical afternoon in their South Central Los Angeles apartment, the four members of the Nelson family use a few precious afternoon hours together to relax, eat an early dinner, and talk about school and plans for the weekend. Jamie helps third-grader Jamiyah with her homework, while Carl checks the refrigerator for an afternoon snack. But it's little Darrick who is the center of attention as he laughs, dances, and sings a song he just learned in child care.

[8] U.S. Census, 1997

Why Quality Child Care Matters

A family finds peace in knowing their children are in a safe, enriching environment

Cesar Sanchez, Jr. was just 14 months old when he developed a fever that rose so rapidly his body temperature reached 106 and he went into a febrile seizure. The frightened teenage babysitter who was watching Cesar Jr. telephoned his mother, Maria, at work and asked what to do. "Call an ambulance," said Maria Sanchez before asking a co-worker to phone her husband and drive her home.

Young Cesar spent the next week recovering in a hospital, and his parents spent two weeks searching for professional child care for Cesar Jr. and his two-year-old sister, Jannessa. "I never really had to look for child care before," says Maria Sanchez. "We always had family members or babysitters who could watch the kids. But when Cesar got sick I knew I wanted someone professional who would be prepared in an emergency. Since licensed providers have training and know first aid and CPR, that's what we were looking for."

The Sanchez family found a licensed provider who operates an around-the-clock family child care home right in the Shafter, California neighborhood where the Sanchez family lives. With four years of experience and certificates from training courses in everything from infant care to child enrichment, she was the right fit for the Sanchez family.

The Low Wages of a Child Care Professional

Cesar Jr. and Jannessa's provider is an experienced child care provider and her clients, including Maria and Cesar Sanchez, say she has been a great teacher for their children. Nonetheless, her wages are similar to other California child care providers, at barely more than $8.30 per hour. It seems like low compensation for a job that requires nurturing, cooking, transporting, watching, and educating those in her care. How do her wages stack up with earnings in other professions that require cooking, driving, educating, tending, communicating, assisting, or educating?

Median hourly wages in California

Child Care Provider	*$8.31*
Short-order cook	$8.54
School bus driver	$12.30
Telemarketer	$10.04
Dental assistant	$14.64
Groundskeeper	$15.70
Adult education instructor	$28.22

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Comparative annual salaries in California

Preschool teacher, full year	*$21,130*
First year kindergarten teacher school year, state average	$25,433

"We always had family members or babysitters who could watch the kids. But when Cesar got sick I knew I wanted someone professional who would be prepared in an emergency."

– Maria Sanchez

Quality care makes a difference for children

The majority of young families in California are like the Sanchez family, in that their children need a safe, stable environment so their parents can work. Unfortunately, the nation's youngest children, those who are not yet in school, are among the most likely to be in unsafe, substandard care where nurturing and stimulation can be minimal and caregivers may be untrained even in general safety and nutrition.

While poor quality child care can be detrimental to a child's development, high-quality care has been associated with a full range of positive outcomes in children, including improving their ability to relate to adults and peers and setting a foundation for success in school. Many of the 40,000 licensed providers in California are committed to improving the quality of care they provide to young children by accessing training programs.

Maria and Cesar Sanchez speak highly of their child care provider. "She's taught our kids a lot. She potty-trained Jannessa and got her off the bottle. And Jannessa's learning English. Though we speak Spanish at home, Jannessa now says some English words, too. And we no longer worry about Cesar Jr. because he is in good hands."

Good care requires stable providers

When Cesar Jr. and Jannessa arrive at child care, their provider welcomes them with smiles and hugs. She serves a freshly cooked breakfast of eggs, tortillas, and fruit. On this day, a week before the holidays, she hands out Christmas gifts before music and play time begin in the large room that was added onto her home in order to accomodate her business.

One of 123,000 Californians employed in child care, the Sanchez children's provider likes her job, though she says it can be difficult. "Every year I say, 'I'm not going to do this next year.' But then I get into the spirit."

Her determination to stay in child care is the exception, not the rule. It's a profession where long hours and low wages are commonplace and benefits are rare. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, turnover rates among child care providers are nearly three times that of other workers and nearly five times the rate for public school teachers. Provider turnover has an impact on quality, as children learn and grow best with consistent, attentive relationships they can count on.

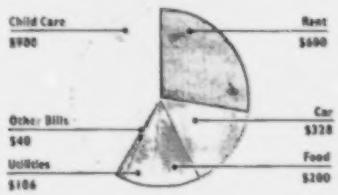
The Sanchez children's provider makes ends meet by caring for children day *and* night. She copes with the challenge of isolation from adults by participating in an association of Latino family child care providers. They are all working to become accredited, which involves meeting standards that are higher than what is required for licensing. She feels good about the future because she has earned the trust of people like Maria and Cesar Sanchez, who say she will be their provider for years to come. "Sometimes the cost is a concern," says the elder Cesar Sanchez, "but the care is good."

The Child Care Crunch

A mother risks losing her job when she can't afford child care

At 7:30 on a Wednesday morning, the four females of the Roberts household have already weathered a diaper-changing tantrum, several toy sword fights, a debate over school clothes, and a brush with a black widow spider. It's a hectic, but typical, beginning of the day for single mother Doreen Roberts and her three children, who live in the Shasta County town of Bella Vista, nestled among trees in the hills near Redding. Like the majority of the more than 800,000 single moms in California, Roberts needs child care to work. And, like many mothers raising children on their own, her income is insufficient to cover child care. "What providers charge for infant care is three-quarters of my salary," Doreen says. "The issue of affordable child care is not just important. It changed my life recently."

The Roberts' Monthly Budget
Amount Earned: $1,384.50



Total Expenses (without subsidies): $2,174.00
($789.50 less than what Doreen Roberts earns)

The full cost of child care for the three Roberts girls is $900 per month. This includes family child care for one infant and two children in school-age care. Without child care subsidies (totaling $900), the Roberts family would not be able to make it on Doreen Roberts' income.

A radio news anchor with a college education, Roberts, 34, earns less than $17,000 a year, barely enough to cover the cost of rent, food, and transportation for her family. In 2000, soon after her divorce and with no child support, Roberts began looking for child care so that she could continue working. The search for care for Isabelle, now a toddler, took months, during which Doreen learned that some local child care providers charge as much as $900 a month to care for infants. Working *more* than 40 hours a week wasn't an option for Dor[illegible], who wants to spend time with her children. As she puts it: "If there's a fire late in the day and they want me to cover it, I say, 'I've got to go pick up my kids!'" Eventually, she found a provider who charges about $540 a month to care for Isabelle, but Doreen still couldn't cover the entire cost herself.

"The issue of affordable child care is not just important. It changed my life recently."

– Doreen Roberts

Work to welfare to afford child care, instead of the other way around

Seeking help paying for child care, Doreen put her daughters' names on a waiting list for child care subsidies. But the child care assistance program has historically been underfunded: Most working families who are eligible for child care subsidies wait months or even years before receiving them. Immediate help is available only for the poorest Californians, most of whom are in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. Faced with the possibility of losing her job, Roberts saw no choice but to sign up for CalWORKs in 2000.

"Going on CalWORKs wasn't something I wanted to do. But I *had* to do that in order to support my family," she says. "It doesn't seem right that people have to go from work to welfare to pay for child care." The subsidy covers both Isabelle's care and the $350 monthly bill for the older girls' after-school program.

It is not known how many families have made choices similar to Roberts'. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that only one child of every 10 who is eligible for subsidies actually receives them because there is not enough funding to cover all who are eligible.

Child care represents one of the largest expenses for low-income families like the Roberts, sometimes eclipsing what they spend on food or rent. In Shasta County, the average cost of care for a child under 24 months old in a licensed center runs in excess of $6,000 a year. When combined with the price of after-school care for Doreen's two older children, the expense easily adds up to more than what her family spends on rent and food.

Child care funds help ensure a brighter future

On this hectic Wednesday, the members of the Roberts family are busy in the hours they're apart from one another. Doreen Roberts interviews a U.S. congressman and calls one of her daughters' teachers about a recent progress report; Isabelle, who is 19 months old, builds castles in a sandbox with four other toddlers at the family child care home her mother calls "a godsend"; and nine-year-old Chloe plays dodge ball with friends at an after-school program, while her sister Allison, 11, socializes nearby during a break from math homework.

At sunset, Doreen collects Isabelle at the child care home and drives to the school to pick up the girls, who run out to greet their baby sister and mother with hugs. Chloe wants to know what's for dinner and Allison volunteers to cook burritos. As Doreen piles her daughters into the minivan, her mind is, as usual, on several things at once: a recent job offer that may mean a higher salary and the impact that would have on her family's financial security; the relationship she has recently started, her first in two years; and her daughters and the progress they're making in school and child care. She thinks, too, about the child support checks that have started to arrive and the final car payment she made last month.

In a few minutes, her family will sit down together for a dinner made from groceries that, for the first time in months, weren't purchased with food stamps.

California

"It took me two years to find child care for my toddler, and another year for my infant (by then she was a toddler). As working parents, we need child care in order to work and be assured that our children are safe. But you have to go through a lot to find it, and when you do, it usually is beyond your budget."

–Maria Luz Torre, Parent Voices organizer

California's burgeoning population and the high cost of living in the state have put pressure on the child care system. As housing costs soar, fewer parents can afford to stay home with small children, yet there is only about one slot in a licensed child care setting for every five children with working parents. This lack of licensed care limits parents' options, leaving some to choose care based on cost, accessibility, or schedules that match parents' work hours rather than quality.

Research shows that quality care promotes language and conceptual skills, fosters healthy relationships with peers and adults, and helps prepare children for school. Supporting quality care is an investment that pays off in terms of higher educational achievement and the ability of children to grow into adults who can compete in our state's increasingly technology- and information-dependent economy. Yet, in most parts of the state, such care is scarce and what's available is expensive.

Families have trouble affording quality care. Finding and affording quality child care is a challenge for families. Care for just one infant in a licensed child care center costs 20 percent of what a family at the median income earns in a year. Parents with more than one child say their child care expenses rival what they spend on rent, and low-income parents use even larger portions of their salary for child care. Although there are government subsidies to help families pay for care, the number of families who qualify far outnumber available funds; more than 250,000 California children linger on waiting lists for financial assistance.

Meanwhile, child care remains one of the lowest-paid professions in the state, and turnover among providers is extremely high. Providers often leave the field seeking higher pay and benefits. Those who remain in the profession struggle to be cost-effective, often deciding to serve preschoolers, who require a lower ratio of teachers to children than infants.

Parents who work evenings, nights, weekends, or rotating shifts have limited choices. Parents of infants, school-age children, and children with special needs also have difficulty finding care because the supply of licensed care has not kept up with demand.

California is working to find solutions to these problems. The CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability) program is being implemented in many communities, providing incentives for child care professionals to continue their education and stay in the profession. Proposition 10, the state's tobacco tax, has funded programs aimed at improving the availability and quality of child care, and the California Child Care Initiative Project has created 28,500 licensed child care slots since 1985. In every county, parents, providers, and child care advocates are joining together to address shortages, to offer training, and to expand families' options for early care and education.

For more information about child care in California, call your local R&R, or 1-800-543-7793.

The People

Total number of residents in the state		**33,871,648**
% change in population 1990-2000		14%
Total number of children under 14		7,289,433
Total number of children under 18		9,249,829
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	25%	2,275,458
Total number of children ages 6-13		4,271,047
Total number of children ages 0-5		3,018,386
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	27%	805,909
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	24%	

California has the 14th highest rate of child poverty among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	55%	4,068,422
% of children ages 6-13	59%	2,533,471
% of children ages 0-5	51%	1,534,951

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,521
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as a % of minimum wage	71%
Median annual household income	$42,472
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	34%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$44,739
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$8,146
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

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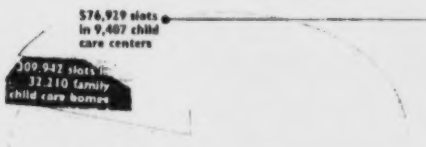
Child Care Supply in California

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in California.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 886,871 slots

65% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	25% of center slots

35% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 4,068,422

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,534,951 children
Ages 6-13	2,533,471 children

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	34% of calls
Preschool care	41% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	80% of calls
Child care centers	61% of calls
In-home care[10]	4% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	70%
Part-time care	34%
Before- and/or after-school care	17%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	79%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	25%

From 1998 to 2000 requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 74 percent to 79 percent of calls. Requests for part-time care for children under six fell from 30 percent to 25 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	9%

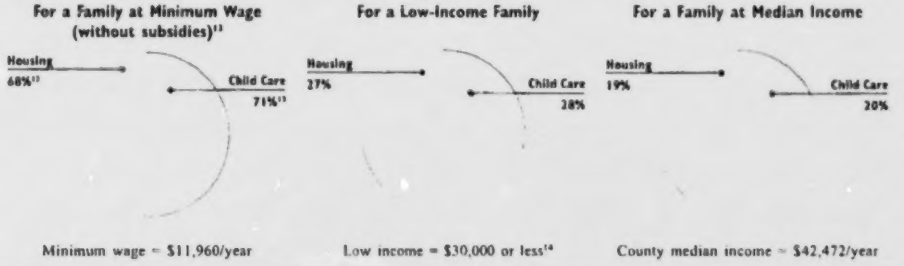
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	9,193	9,407	2%
Slots for infants	24,567	27,715	13%
Slots: ages 2-5	405,977	406,278	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	128,318	142,936	11%
Family child care homes	30,880	32,210	4%
Slots for all ages[8]	259,605	309,942	19%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	73%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	19%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	85%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	43%
Homes with before-/after-school care	69%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	31%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Understanding the County Data Pages

1 Total number of residents in the county. 2000 U.S. Census.

2 Percent change in population 1990-2000. 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census.

3 Total number of children under 14. 2000 U.S. Census.

4 Total number of children under 18. 2000 U.S. Census.

5 Percentage of children ages 0-17 living in poverty. Percentage from 1997 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Number calculated by the Network based on above percentage and 2000 U.S. Census population number. Poverty is defined as $16,050 for a family of four (1997 threshold).

6 Total number of children ages 6-13 and 0-5. 2000 U.S. Census.

7 Percentage of children ages 0-5 living in poverty. Percentage calculated by the Network based on 1997 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Number calculated by Network based on above percentages. Poverty is defined as $16,050 for a family of four (1997 threshold).

8 Families with children ages 0-5, headed by a single parent. 2000 U.S. Census.

9 County child poverty ranking. Based on the estimated percentage of children ages 0-5 living in poverty.

10 Children living with working parents. Percentages from 1990 U.S. Census; numbers calculated by the Network by applying 1990 U.S. Census percentages to 2000 U.S. Census numbers.

11 Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months. Network, 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey.

12 Annual minimum wage of full-time worker. California, 2000.

13 Median annual household income in the county. Network calculation based on U.S. Census, "Estimated Median Household Income by County: California 1997" and 2000 California inflation adjustment.

14 Care for two children as a percentage of median income. Network, 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey and Network calculation based on U.S. Census, "Estimated Median Household Income by County: California 1997" and 2000 California inflation adjustment.

15 Self-sufficiency family income. "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for California," by Diana Pearce. Prepared for Californians for Family Economic Self-Sufficiency and Equal Rights Advocates, November 2000.

Rapid economic expansion has spurred substantial increases in Sacramento County's population and cost of living that outpace California as a whole. At a time when more working families need quality child care, there has been an 18 percent drop in family child care homes in the county from 1995 to 2000, as well as a 2 percent decline in licensed slots overall. According to Child Action, Inc., the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, this is due to both the expense of running a family child care home and the availability of other higher paying jobs. An informal survey, conducted by the agency, found that more than half of providers leaving the field did so to pursue other careers. "Providers are leaving family child care for other professions," says an R&R manager.

Licensed care is costly

Parents, burdened with high housing costs, have trouble affording child care. Some parents complain that without affordable child care they cannot keep a job or afford to live in Sacramento County. The R&R estimates that 60 percent of parents who contact the agency are worried about the cost of care. With a shortage of subsidies available for families who are not in the state's welfare-to-work program, many working parents have limited child care options.

More diverse provider pool is needed

In a county where an estimated 75,000 Eastern European immigrants reside along with many more from Latin America, Vietnam, and elsewhere, the child care field and the R&R have been challenged to diversify the provider pool. Child Action has worked hard to increase the number of Russian-, Spanish-, and Hmong-speaking child care workers in the county. The supply of school-age care and youth development programs also has expanded, with growing community support and awareness of these programs. The R&R has partnered with local community colleges to provide job-skill training for CalWORKs participants interested in pursuing child care as a profession. Child Action has also received funding from the state and the Children and Families Commission to create incentives for providers to pursue their credentials and for facilities to expand.

The R&R and local family resource centers have made information about child care available to parents throughout the county. Representatives of social service agencies and family resource centers visit new mothers at home and bring information about child care to new parents. With a high percentage of families placing infants in child care, information about choosing care has become critical.

For more information about child care in Sacramento County, call:

Child Action, Inc. 916-369-0191

Sacramento County

"When I asked about financial assistance, I was told there were 2,500 families ahead of me. To get financial help, I would have had to be in the CalWORKs program and sign up for food stamps. I didn't want that. It seems to me that if you qualify income-wise, you should be able to get assistance to pay for child care."

April, mother of two school-age children

	The People		
1	Total number of residents in the county		1,223,499
2	% change in population 1990-2000		18%
3	Total number of children under 14		264,685
4	Total number of children under 18		337,602
5	% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	92,165
6	Total number of children ages 6-13		156,630
6	Total number of children ages 0-5		108,055
7	% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	30%	32,308
8	Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	31%	
9	Sacramento has the 16th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.		
	Children of Working Parents[3]		
	Children living with working parents[4]		
10	% of children ages 0-13	56%	149,523
	% of children ages 6-13	61%	95,242
	% of children ages 0-5	50%	54,281
	Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries		
11	Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months		$8,239
12	Annual minimum wage of full-time worker		$11,960
	Care for an infant as % of minimum wage		69%
13	Median annual household income in the county		$42,329
	Care for an infant as % of median income		19%
14	Care for two children as % of median income[5]		33%
15	Self sufficiency family income[6]		$44,854
16	Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit		$7,572
17	Salary of child care worker[7]		$17,420
18	Salary of preschool teacher[7]		$21,130
19	Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]		$25,433

Excerpted from The California Child Care Portfolio 2001 (publication to coincide [illegible]), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the Portfolio.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four, $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county at publication time.)
2. Includes male and female heads of household with at least one child under 18.
3. Nationally, 74% of children 0-13 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time cost in a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

The 2001 California Child Care Portfolio

16 Fair market rent for a two-bedroom housing unit. U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Data represents rents collected either for the whole county or by Metropolitan Statistical Area/Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area, and assigned to a county using the methodology from "The Self-Sufficiency Standard for California."

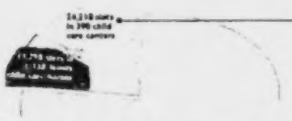
17 Average statewide salary of a child care worker. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1999 State Occupational Employment and Wage Data.

18 Average statewide salary of a preschool teacher. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1999 State Occupational and Employment Wage Data.

19 Salary of entry-level public school teacher. California Teachers Association, "1999-2000 Certified Teacher Salary Profile by County by District by Type."

Child Care Supply in Sacramento County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Sacramento County.



20 Licensed Child Care Supply = 37,516 slots

65% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	71% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	23% of center slots

35% of all slots are in family child care homes[9]

21 Children Needing Child Care = 149,523

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	54,281 children
Ages 6-13	95,242 children

Sacramento County ranks 34th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

22 Licensed child care supply meets only 25% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

23 Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	40% of calls
School-age care	29% of calls
Family child care homes	90% of calls
Child care centers	71% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	63%
Part-time care	38%
Before- and/or after-school care	23%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	76%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	24%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for center-based care rose to 71 percent from 59 percent. Requests for before- and after-school care declined by 6 percentage points.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	10%

24 Licensed Child Care Supply

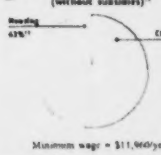
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	381	390	2%
Slots for infants	1,512	1,508	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	17,481	17,101	-2%
Slots: ages 6 and over	5,080	5,609	10%
Family child care homes	1,755	1,438	-18%
Slots for all ages[9]	14,057	13,298	-5%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	76%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	19%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	50%
Homes with before-/after-school care	79%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[13]	3%
In family child care homes	28%

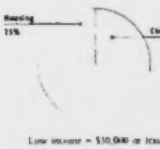
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

25 For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[14]



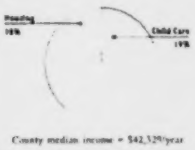
Minimum wage = $11,960/year

26 For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

27 For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $42,329/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because some categories either request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined school percentages for licensed and license-exempt centers are more than 100% of maximum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,652 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

The California Child Care Resource & Referral Network (Network) has prepared individual data sheets on every county in California and for the state as a whole. This information has been compiled in the format you see on these sample pages. To receive a copy of your individual county pages, call your local resource and referral agency (R&R). Your local R&R can also provide more detailed information about child care in your county.

20 Licensed child care supply. R&R provider databases, as of January 2000.

21 Children needing child care. Numbers calculated by the Network by applying 1990 U.S. Census percentages to 2000 U.S. Census numbers.

22 Percentage of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages that is met by the supply of licensed care. Numbers calculated by the Network based on 2000 U.S. Census population numbers, 1990 U.S. Census percentages, and 2000 R&R provider databases.

23 Type of care and schedules requested. Quarterly R&R reports of caller information, for a single three-month period between April 2000 and March 2001. 1998 data on requests for care during non-traditional hours was reported for Glenn, Marin, and Nevada counties, and 1998 data on requests for before- and after-school care was reported for Marin County; 2000 data was not available. In Alameda County, some data was not available for full-time and part-time care requests for children ages 0-5.

24 Licensed child care supply. January 1998 and January 2000 R&R provider databases.

25 Portion of income needed to pay for an infant in a licensed child care center and rent for a two-bedroom housing unit, by a family earning minimum wage. 2000 California minimum wage; Network 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey; and U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent History File, 1983-present.

26 Portion of a low-income family's earnings needed to pay for an infant in a licensed child care center and rent for a two-bedroom housing unit. Network 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey; "low-income" is defined as annual income under $30,000; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent History File, 1983-present.

27 Portion of annual median income needed to pay for an infant in a licensed child care center and rent for a two-bedroom housing unit. Network 2000 Regional Market Rate Survey; Network calculation based on U.S. Census, "Estimated Median Household Income by County: California 1997" and 2000 California inflation adjustment; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Market Rent History File, 1983-present.

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Alameda County

"My boss wants to promote me, but if that happened I'd have to be more flexible about working evenings. With kids, it's just too hard."

–Rosa, single mother of five

With some of the fastest-growing cities in the Bay Area, Alameda County is ethnically and economically diverse, with the majority of jobs in technology, manufacturing, and a large services sector. Despite the high number of working parents who need child care, some centers have closed because of rising rents and competition for a shrinking pool of qualified providers. People decide not to enter the child care profession because the pay is low and the job rarely offers benefits. "There aren't enough new people coming into the field to replace those who are retiring," says a counselor at one of three local resource and referral (R&R) agencies in Alameda County.

Partially filling the demand unmet by centers, the number of slots in family child care homes has grown significantly in recent years in some parts of the county, but the cost of doing business has prompted many providers to raise their rates. Many low-income families turn to relatives or friends to watch their children. For parents with few options, these informal arrangements are critical to their ability to work because they are often very flexible.

Incentives build the child care supply

To improve the quality of care and offer providers incentives to stay in the field, each of the three R&Rs, in collaboration with the county Children and Families Commission and local community colleges, has hired a career advocate to help providers connect with opportunities to increase their skills and education. The county's Child Development Corps program provides stipends for caregivers who get additional training, which has boosted attendance at R&R workshops and in child development classes. It is hoped that these efforts will increase the number of providers willing to stay in the field and improve the quality of care overall.

Services in multiple languages increase

But more needs to be done to assist parents in finding child care. This is particularly true for a growing number of families who have recently immigrated to the U.S. from other countries and settled in Alameda County. In Oakland, Bananas provides services in 12 languages and offers an English as a Second Language class that uses child development concepts to teach language skills to licensed providers and those seeking to become licensed. 4C's of Alameda County provides materials in Spanish, Chinese, and Farsi, as well as English.

For more information about child care in Alameda County, call:

Bananas	510-658-7353
Child Care Links	925-417-8733
4C's of Alameda County	510-582-2182

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,443,741**
% change in population 1990-2000		13%
Total number of children under 14		281,523
Total number of children under 18		354,572
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	18%	62,405
Total number of children ages 6-13		162,399
Total number of children ages 0-5		119,124
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	18%	21,800
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		22%

Alameda has the 43rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	167,353
% of children ages 6-13	64%	103,292
% of children ages 0-5	54%	64,061

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

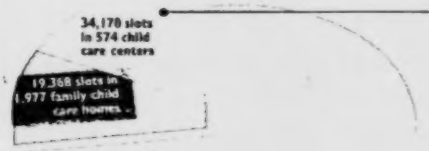
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$9,501
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	79%
Median annual household income in the county	$50,196
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	33%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$52,328
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$11,052
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Alameda County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Alameda County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 53,538 slots

64% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	61% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	33% of center slots

36% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 167,353

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	64,061 children
Ages 6-13	103,292 children

Alameda County ranks 10th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 32% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	44% of calls
Preschool care	35% of calls
School-age care	21% of calls
Family child care homes	72% of calls
Child care centers	49% of calls
In-home care[10]	11% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	63%
Part-time care	38%
Before- and/or after-school care	14%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	73%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	28%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant/toddler care increased from 38 percent to 44 percent, while requests for preschool care decreased from 40 percent to 35 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

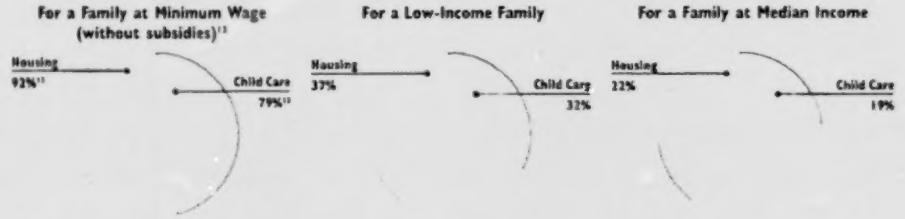
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	532	574	8%
Slots for infants	1,764	1,914	9%
Slots: ages 2-5	19,553	20,877	7%
Slots: ages 6 and over	10,588	11,379	7%
Family child care homes	2,174	1,977	-9%
Slots for all ages[8]	18,246	19,368	6%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	64%
Only full-time available	9%
Only part-time available	27%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	42%
Homes with before-/after-school care	60%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	26%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Alpine County

"My husband works irregular hours, and I cut my hours back, so right now we 'tag team' child care. I won't be able to start a full-time job if I don't find child care."

–Lauren, mother of three

Many of Alpine County's child care issues are the result of the area's small population – just over 1,200 people live in the county, according to the latest U.S. Census. Because the county's residents are spread among a handful of mountain communities, quality child care, especially infant care, is not accessible to everyone. "I know several parents who quit working because they can't find a decent place for their babies," says a staff member at Choices for Children, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "If these parents had a choice, they might not have quit."

Informal arrangements are common

About one-fifth of Alpine County's population belongs to the Washoe Tribe. Washoe parents often rely on extended families to care for their children. While informal child care arrangements are common throughout the county, a recent survey of parents revealed that many would welcome more licensed care options, especially for infants and school-age children. Recruiting and retaining child care providers can present a challenge, though, as few communities in the county have enough children to fill a program and make it financially viable for a provider.

Local human services agencies have worked together to address the needs of families in the county. A new summer recreation program sponsored by the county Children and Families Commission has been popular with school-age children, and local officials are currently developing a strategic plan to promote infant care. Additionally, R&R staff provide child care information to parents at local health fairs and send out brochures about quality care to those who call for referrals.

To boost the supply of care, the R&R provides grants to pay start-up expenses for anyone opening a family child care home. There are several efforts underway in the county to improve the quality of care as well. The Provider Education and Resource Collaborative, a community partnership focused on quality child care, is expanding provider training and supporting a mentor program. New support from the county Children and Families Commission is also helping to fuel interest in improving the local child care system. "I feel very optimistic about care in the upcoming year," says a Choices for Children director. "There are additional resources in our community, and we're coming together in a collaborative way."

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,208**
% change in population 1990-2000		9%
Total number of children under 14		193
Total number of children under 18		276
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	31%	84
Total number of children ages 6-13		119
Total number of children ages 0-5		74
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	23%	17
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		42%

Alpine has the 35th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	46%	91
% of children ages 6-13	56%	67
% of children ages 0-5	32%	24

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,580
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$33,339
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	35%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$40,330
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,240
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Alpine county, call:

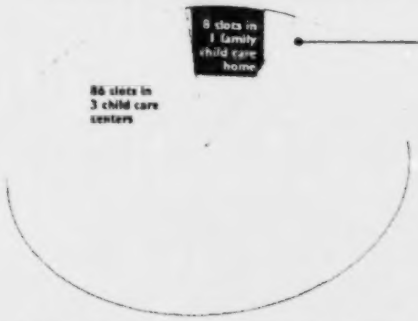
Choices for Children 530-694-2129

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Alpine County

Licensed child care does not meet the need for infant care in Alpine County.



Alpine County ranks 1st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed Child Care Supply = 94 slots

91% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	67% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	33% of center slots

9% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 91

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	24 children
Ages 6-13	67 children

Licensed child care supply meets the estimated need for licensed care for children ages two and older.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	100% of calls
Preschool care	0% of calls
School-age care	0% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	0% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	0%
Part-time care	100%
Before- and/or after-school care	0%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	0%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	100%

In 1998, all caller requests were for preschool and school-age care. In 2000, all caller requests were for infant/toddler care.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	33%

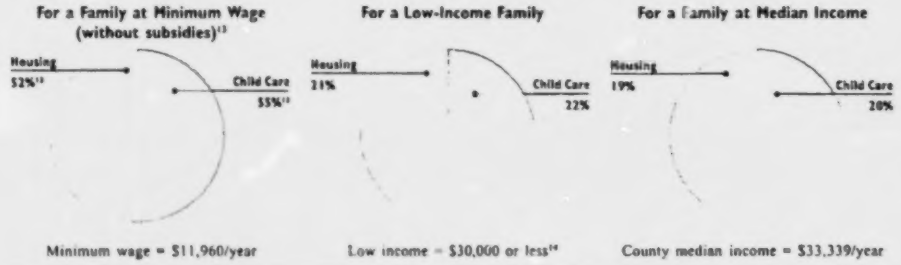
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	**1998**	**2000**	**Change**
Child care centers	3	3	0%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	64	58	-9%
Slots: ages 6 and over	15	28	87%
Family child care homes	2	1	-50%
Slots for all ages[8]	14	8	-43%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	76%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	24%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	33%
Homes with before-/after-school care	100%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	33%
In family child care homes	0%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Amador County

"To avoid having to pay for child care, my husband and I juggled schedules. I worked days and he worked nights. I'm sure it wasn't good for my daughter not to have her parents in the same room ever."

–Alicia, mother of a newborn and preschooler

A picturesque slice of foothills and mountain wilderness, Amador County has attracted an increasing number of retirees, vacationers, and young families, pushing up real estate prices and putting pressure on the child care supply. Although the population of children under 13 has increased, according to the latest census, the number of slots for children in licensed child care facilities is falling. A tightened housing market has reduced opportunities for child care providers to buy or lease sufficient space to offer care, according to staff members at Child Care Resources, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Despite the R&R's successful efforts to recruit new family child care providers, each year many providers leave the field, discouraged by the difficulty of making a living caring for young children. For these providers, wages are low and benefits usually non-existent. The stagnating supply of licensed care has a significant impact on families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, limiting their child care choices.

Care for infants and toddlers is scarce

Parents in Amador County find it especially difficult to find child care for toddlers and newborns. From 1998 to 2000, the number of slots for infants in licensed centers fell by 33 percent, as some child care centers closed. Even for middle-income parents, the high cost of child care can be enough of a reason for one parent to stay home or for two parents to work opposite shifts. Parents whose jobs require weekend work face added obstacles: There is almost no licensed care available on weekends. "People are depending on families, friends, and whatever they can find," says a Child Care Resources staff member.

Child care helps the economy

Despite these challenges, there is growing awareness about how access to quality child care contributes to economic well-being. Recognizing the relationship between child care and employee retention, a local casino that is one of the county's major employers has recently added a 24-hour child care center for employee families. And R&R staff are working with local city and county officials to find innovative ways to secure a facility that would house an Early Head Start program as well as a family child care home.

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**35,100**
% change in population 1990-2000		17%
Total number of children under 14		5,079
Total number of children under 18		7,223
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	17%	1,235
Total number of children ages 6-13		3,258
Total number of children ages 0-5		1,821
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	18%	319
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		28%
Amador has the 47th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties		

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	57%	2,894
% of children ages 6-13	60%	1,967
% of children ages 0-5	51%	927

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,907
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$40,578
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	25%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,675
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,464
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Amador County, call:

Child Care Resources 209-223-1625

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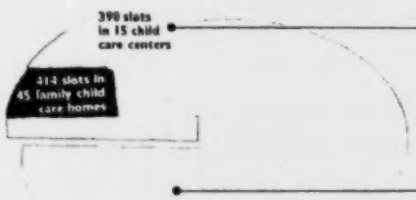
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Amador County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Amador County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 804 slots

49% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	2% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	28% of center slots

51% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 2,894

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	927 children
Ages 6-13	1,967 children

Amador County ranks 21st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 28% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	98% of calls
Child care centers	85% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	73%
Part-time care	66%
Before- and/or after-school care	2%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	75%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	61%

Callers requesting referrals for child care centers increased from 59 percent in 1998 to 85 percent in 2000. The percent of requests for full-time care also increased from 51 percent to 73 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	15%

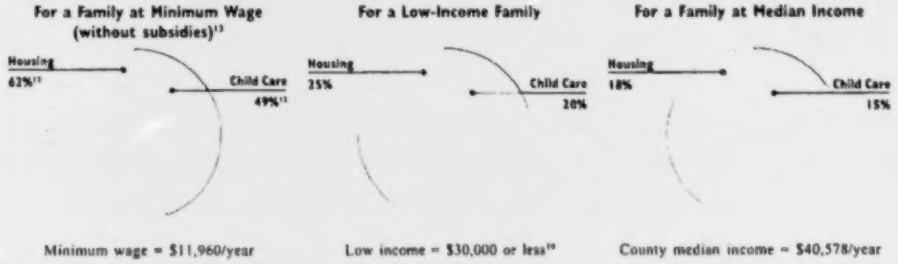
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	20	15	-25%
Slots for infants	12	8	-33%
Slots: ages 2-5	397	271	-32%
Slots: ages 6 and over	153	111	-27%
Family child care homes	46	45	-2%
Slots for all ages[8]	368	414	13%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	62%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	38%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	94%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	4%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	65%
Homes with before-/after-school care	73%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	22%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Butte County

"I wanted to keep my twins together, but it's really hard to find someone who will take two infants. I really wanted someone who could pay a lot of individual attention to them. But I couldn't find anything like that."

–Maria, mother of three

About 30 percent of Butte County's youngest children live in poverty. Because so many local families earn low wages working in farming, food service, and retail jobs, demand for affordable child care is high. However, child care subsidies for low-income families are limited, as local parents discover when seeking help in paying for child care. Many families whose income makes them eligible for subsidies must put their names on waiting lists because there aren't enough funds to go around. Rising costs for licensed child care have limited many low-income families' child care options.

Infant care is in short supply

Despite high demand for infant-toddler care, few child care providers have slots for these children: Since 1998, the supply of infant care in child care centers has fallen. And while preschool care is more readily available than infant care, parents often face yet another struggle once their children begin elementary school. Licensed care for school-age children is limited, and transportation from school to care programs presents an obstacle for many families. Only one school in the county provides bus service for children going to after-school child care, leaving parents scrambling to make sure their children are not left home alone.

Recruitment efforts have been successful

Valley Oak Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working to build the county's child care capacity, particularly to increase available care for infants and toddlers. The agency has recruited more child care providers willing to work nontraditional hours, such as weekends and evenings, as well as Spanish- and Hmong-speaking providers who are needed to meet the county's increasing ethnic diversity. To encourage providers to get additional training, the R&R gives stipends to providers who attend workshops on topics such as child development and health and safety. These programs have helped increase the number of slots in licensed family child care homes by 21 percent since 1998.

In addition, employer awareness about the need for child care and its impact on business is on the rise, R&R staff members say. "More businesses are asking about their employees' needs and recognize that child care is a priority," says an R&R counselor.

For more information about child care in Butte County, call:

Valley Oak Children's Services 530-895-1677

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**203,171**
% change in population 1990-2000		12%
Total number of children under 14		36,830
Total number of children under 18		48,767
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	31%	15,069
Total number of children ages 6-13		22,650
Total number of children ages 0-5		14,180
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	32%	4,538
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		34%

Butte has the 13th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	53%	19,800
% of children ages 6-13	58%	13,144
% of children ages 0-5	47%	6,656

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,666
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	47%
Median annual household income in the county	$31,501
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$39,487
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,852
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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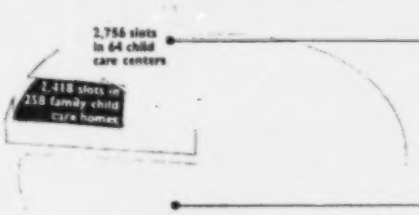
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Butte County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Butte County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 5,174 slots

53% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	7% of center slots
Ages 2-5	80% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	13% of center slots

47% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 19,800

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	6,656 children
Ages 6-13	13,144 children

Butte County ranks 29th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	40% of calls
School-age care	30% of calls
Family child care homes	97% of calls
Child care centers	97% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	73%
Part-time care	54%
Before- and/or after-school care	12%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	78%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	47%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant care increased from 24 percent to 31 percent. Requests for referrals to centers increased from 92 percent to 97 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	9%

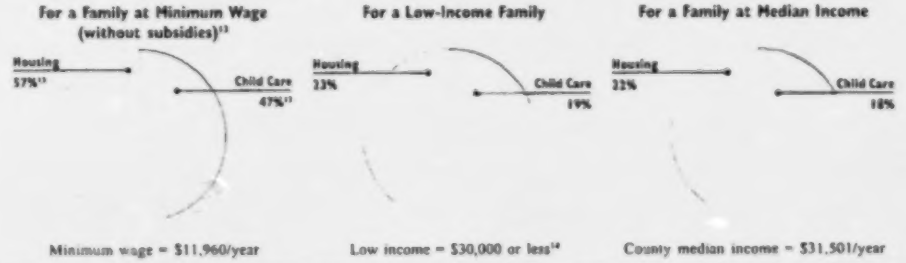
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	55	64	16%
Slots for infants	194	192	-1%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,001	2,205	10%
Slots: ages 6 and over	320	359	12%
Family child care homes	239	258	8%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,992	2,418	21%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	81%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	17%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	79%
Only full-time available	16%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	41%
Homes with before-/after-school care	48%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	12%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Calaveras County

"I've been a single dad for more than 2 years. My son has had some behavioral issues, but the child care staff have been very patient with him. We went through a hard time, but things really fell into place."

–Michael, single father of two school-age children

The diversity of economic conditions in Calaveras County has had varying impacts on the supply of child care. An increase in the number of vacation home sales in the county's scenic eastern mountains has shrunk the supply of housing for low-income, year-round families. In Arnold, near Alpine County's Bear Valley ski resort, the local Head Start center closed due to insufficient enrollment. Yet in Angels Camp, where many of Arnold's displaced families relocated, demand for child care has outpaced availability. In Valley Springs near Stockton, a new child care center filled up quickly, but many of the children are enrolled part-time to meet the desires of higher-income, stay-at-home moms who seek respite care and socialization for their preschoolers.

Despite this fragmentation, common themes have emerged – among them an acute shortage of licensed care for infants and toddlers and the difficulty that child care centers have in retaining qualified staff. Although the number of child care centers has grown, few offer care for infants and toddlers because it isn't cost-effective. The expansion of family child care homes has helped increase the overall number of licensed child care slots in the county, but there are still not enough to meet demand. This is due in part to CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. As parents participating in the program move into the work force or training and education programs, the need for child care grows.

Availability of care is only part of the problem. While CalWORKs participants receive financial assistance to pay for child care, other low-income working families who do not receive subsidies find that the cost of licensed care can be prohibitive or that it does not provide the flexibility to accommodate work schedules.

Providers encouraged to get training

Child Care Resources, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working with the county Children and Families Commission to plan a program that promotes training for child care providers. The CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program will provide stipends to providers who take classes and attend training workshops. But while the benefits of supplemental education are obvious, the reality of seeking it can be a challenge. As one R&R counselor put it, "It's hard to get someone who works 14 hours a day to take a class after work." With limited professional opportunities in the county, the R&R is beginning to reach out to high school students to educate them about careers in child development.

For more information about child care in Calaveras County, call:

Child Care Resources 209-754-1028

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**40,554**
% change in population 1990-2000		27%
Total number of children under 14		6,724
Total number of children under 18		9,248
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	21%	1,924
Total number of children ages 6-13		4,458
Total number of children ages 0-5		2,266
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	19%	428
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		29%

Calaveras has the 39th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	52%	3,560
% of children ages 6-13	58%	2,573
% of children ages 0-5	44%	987

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

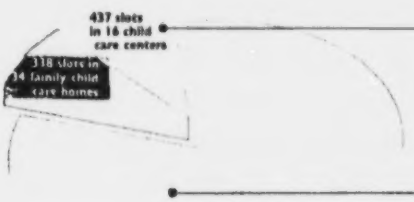
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$4,320
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	36%
Median annual household income in the county	$37,192
Care for an infant as % of median income	12%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	23%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$40,879
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,852
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households, with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Calaveras County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Calaveras County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 775 slots

56% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	90% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	5% of center slots

44% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 3,560

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	987 children
Ages 6-13	2,573 children

Calaveras County ranks 45th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	28% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	29% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	99% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	61%
Part-time care	43%
Before- and/or after-school care	6%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	67%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	36%

Between 1998 and 2000, the percent of requests for full-time care increased from 45 percent to 61 percent, while requests for part-time care decreased from 55 percent to 43 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	17%

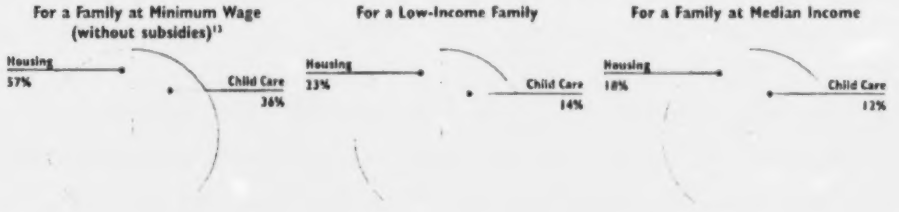
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	9	16	78%
Slots for infants	12	22	83%
Slots: ages 2-5	219	393	79%
Slots: ages 6 and over	93	22	-76%
Family child care homes	34	34	0%
Slots for all ages[8]	314	338	8%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	36%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	52%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	82%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	11%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	44%
Homes with before-/after-school care	82%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	4%
In family child care homes	18%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Colusa County

"My sister watches my kids because there aren't enough good child care programs in this county."

–Toni, mother of two children, ages 4 and 6

Nearly 40 percent of residents in Colusa County work in agriculture. Because the work is seasonal, there is high demand for child care during the summer months and much lower demand in the winter. This fluctuation in enrollment creates financial instability for some local child care providers, resulting in a high turnover in the child care profession. In turn, this has made it more difficult for parents to find providers to care for their children. Children's Services, the resource and referral (R&R) agency in Colusa County's Office of Education, is working to build the supply of family child care providers by supplying incentive funds and reimbursement for continuing education. Workshops tailored to the interests of providers are offered regularly, and R&R staff visit family child care homes to lend advice and support to providers.

Parents spend months seeking care

Despite some improvement in the availability of child care, many parents still spend months seeking care. It is difficult to come by, especially for parents whose jobs require rotating shifts that make planning for child care a challenge and for parents who work during evenings and weekends. Also, because only a handful of licensed child care providers in the county accept children under two (who require a higher staff-to-child ratio), many parents have limited choices for infant care. Relatives and friends often step in to watch children, but even this type of care is not available to everyone. In some cases, according to the R&R, parents are forced to leave very young children to be watched by older siblings for lack of other options.

Although local families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, get access to child care subsidies, there is not enough funding to assist all the low-income working parents who are eligible. Even middle-income families have trouble finding affordable care. "Most subsidized child care centers are filled with children from low-income families, and little is available for other working families," says an R&R staff member. "The most common thing I hear from parents is: 'We're willing to pay for good child care, but there isn't any for us to pay for.'" According to the R&R, rising real estate costs have not only hurt working families' ability to find affordable housing but also made it more difficult to find facilities suitable for child care centers and obtain the financing needed to renovate them.

For more information about child care in Colusa County, call:

Children's Services 530-458-0300

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**18,804**
% change in population 1990-2000		16%
Total number of children under 14		4,487
Total number of children under 18		5,937
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	29%	1,745
Total number of children ages 6-13		2,636
Total number of children ages 0-5		1,851
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	31%	578
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		26%
Colusa has the 15th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.		

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	56%	2,477
% of children ages 6-13	60%	1,585
% of children ages 0-5	48%	892

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$32,678
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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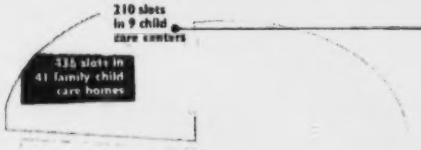
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,650. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Colusa County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Colusa County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 646 slots

33% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	90% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	6% of center slots

67% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 2,477

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	892 children
Ages 6-13	1,585 children

Colusa County ranks 32nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	19% of calls
Preschool care	57% of calls
School-age care	24% of calls
Family child care homes	81% of calls
Child care centers	0% of calls
In-home care[10]	19% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	61%
Part-time care	43%
Before- and/or after-school care	4%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	78%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	28%

In 2000, 64 percent of callers in Colusa County requested referrals for Spanish-speaking providers to care for their children.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	9%

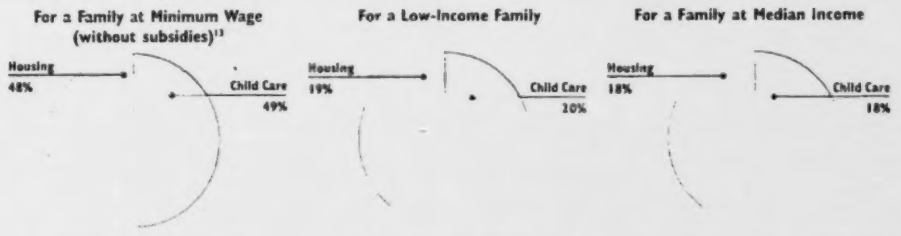
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	7	9	29%
Slots for infants	8	8	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	176	188	7%
Slots: ages 6 and over	7	14	100%
Family child care homes	37	41	11%
Slots for all ages[8]	382	436	14%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	65%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	35%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	76%
Only full-time available	24%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	11%
Homes with before-/after-school care	83%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	11%
In family child care homes	41%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



Minimum wage = $11,960/year | Low income = $30,000 or less[14] | County median income = $32,678/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
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14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Contra Costa County

"My wife and I have been calling places, but we're not really finding anything for infants. It just seems like there aren't a lot of people out there to care for infants."

–Darin, father of a newborn

Contra Costa County is a diverse county with a large percentage of two-income households and parents who commute long distances to work, creating a high demand for child care. Among low-income families in particular, there is a great need for non-traditional hour care for children whose parents work rotating shifts and evening and weekend hours.

Throughout the county, parents struggle to find – and, in some cases, pay for – child care for infants, school-age children, and children with special needs. Few child care programs have openings for infants because the higher staff-to-child ratio required makes it cost-prohibitive. Most before- and after-school programs have full enrollment and long waiting lists, and many providers do not feel adequately trained to care for children with special needs. To help child care providers better serve these populations, the Contra Costa Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, offers courses in caring for infants, toddlers, and school-age children, as well as in the inclusion of children with special needs.

To increase the availability of child care, the Council offers "Road to Success," a recruitment and training project for new family child care providers. In collaboration with the Contra Costa Children and Families Commission, the Council gives newly licensed providers a kit that includes child development materials, books, toys, and curriculum ideas. Financial assistance is available for these providers to purchase safety equipment and to access training. The Council also offers "El Comienzo," a recruitment and training program for Spanish-speaking family child care providers.

Quality improvement efforts help providers

The Child Care Council is committed to improving the quality of care as well as the supply. "We share information about child development, child health, safety, and nutrition with all providers, licensed and license-exempt," says a Council staff member. The Council provides scholarships and workshops, conducts site visits, and sponsors an annual conference, and its Web site, www.cocokids.org, provides additional information. The Council also tracks the training and experience of child care providers and shares that information with parents when they call for referrals. Council staff frequently take resources and information out to community events and recently have begun extending evening hours one night a week to be more accessible to parents.

For more information about child care in Contra Costa County, call:

Contra Costa Child Care Council 925-676-5442

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**948,816**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		197,100
Total number of children under 18		251,794
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	14%	34,244
Total number of children ages 6-13		116,931
Total number of children ages 0-5		80,169
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	15%	11,705
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	20%	

Contra Costa has the 51st highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	60%	119,169
% of children ages 6-13	65%	75,803
% of children ages 0-5	54%	43,366

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$9,727
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	81%
Median annual household income in the county	$58,219
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$52,133
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$11,052
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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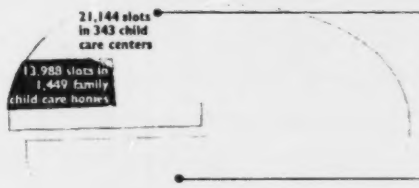
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Contra Costa County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Contra Costa County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 35,132 slots

60% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	61% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	34% of center slots

40% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 119,169

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	43,366 children
Ages 6-13	75,803 children

Contra Costa County ranks 15th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 29% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	39% of calls
Preschool care	38% of calls
School-age care	23% of calls
Family child care homes	87% of calls
Child care centers	45% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	66%
Part-time care	34%
Before- and/or after-school care	17%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	72%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	29%

In 2000, requests for care were about the same as in 1998. There was a slight increase, from 85 percent to 87 percent, in requests for family child care and a corresponding decrease in the percent of requests for care in centers.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	4%

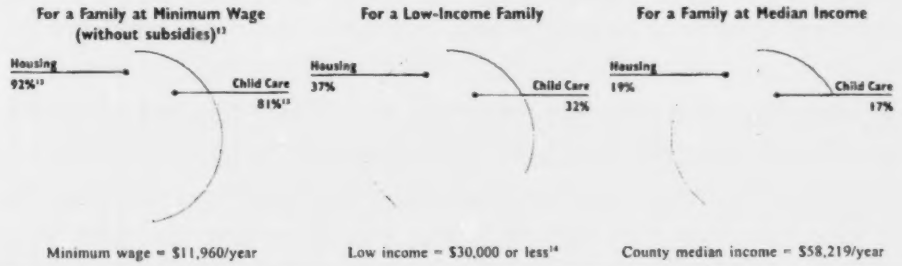
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	336	343	2%
Slots for infants	910	1,074	18%
Slots: ages 2-5	12,808	12,852	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	6,758	7,218	7%
Family child care homes	1,506	1,449	-4%
Slots for all ages[8]	12,147	13,988	15%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	69%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	27%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	88%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	47%
Homes with before-/after-school care	68%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	23%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



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Del Norte County

"One of my co-workers became a child care provider because she couldn't find anyone good to leave her son with. Affordable day care for young children is a necessity and care attached to the schools is another necessity."

–Dawn, working mother of a first-grader and a toddler

The largest employers in Del Norte, California's northernmost coastal county, operate around the clock: Pelican Bay State Penitentiary, a casino, a hospital, and a growing number of retail stores, restaurants, and hotels. More child care is needed for parents who work nights and weekends. Like other rural counties, Del Norte's child care costs are an increasing burden for parents who work in low-wage jobs. For a majority of these families, licensed care is simply out of reach, and parents complain that the high-quality child care facilities are already fully enrolled.

Long distances limit child care choices

In addition, the lack of licensed care in outlying areas forces many working parents to travel long distances to and from work and child care. Some families drive 40 miles round-trip to and from child care, according to a counselor at the Del Norte Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Discouraged by the low wages and long hours required of child care workers, many providers have opted for other careers that provide more financial stability. This staffing shortage has, in turn, led to little recent growth in the child care supply and high turnover rates, especially among infant care providers, according to the R&R. Although some new providers initially choose to provide infant care, many change their minds once they realize how difficult it is to run a viable business while meeting state regulations for staff-to-child ratios in infant care. Provider turnover, however, can be detrimental to young children, who learn best in the context of stable relationships, research shows.

Recruiting child care providers is a top priority for the Child Care Council, which has helped diversify the county's pool of child care workers through outreach to the Spanish-speaking community and a partnership with the county's Economic Development Program to recruit participants in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. The R&R has also begun efforts to educate landlords, real estate companies, and businesses about child care. "Businesses need to understand the importance of child care to their employees' success," says an R&R staff member. "You can help parents with money for child care, but if employers don't understand the stresses of working parents, they won't be able to help employees succeed."

For more information about child care in Del Norte County, call:

Del Norte Child Care Council 707-464-8311

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**27,507**
% change in population 1990-2000		17%
Total number of children under 14		5,060
Total number of children under 18		6,896
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	32%	2,193
Total number of children ages 6-13		3,196
Total number of children ages 0-5		1,864
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	33%	608
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		44%

Del Norte has the 10th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	51%	2,622
% of children ages 6-13	59%	1,878
% of children ages 0-5	40%	744

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

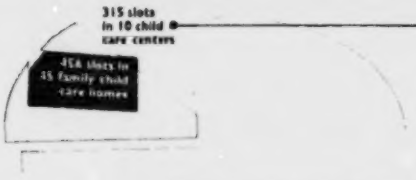
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$31,155
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$40,339
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,852
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Del Norte County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Del Norte County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 771 slots

41% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	73% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	27% of center slots

59% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 2,622

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	744 children
Ages 6-13	1,878 children

Del Norte County ranks 16th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 29% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	21% of calls
Preschool care	45% of calls
School-age care	34% of calls
Family child care homes	88% of calls
Child care centers	32% of calls
In-home care[10]	8% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	74%
Part-time care	39%
Before- and/or after-school care	16%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	81%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	35%

In 2000, 9 percent of requests were for child care for families with rotating work schedules. From 1998 to 2000, requests for family child care decreased from 98 percent to 88 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	22%

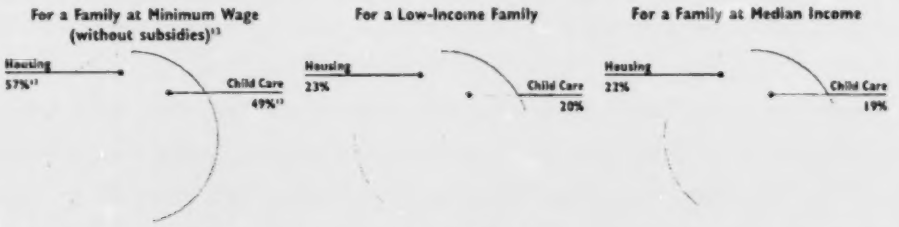
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	10	10	0%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	239	231	-3%
Slots: ages 6 and over	76	84	11%
Family child care homes	44	45	2%
Slots for all ages[8]	402	456	13%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	64%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	36%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	54%
Homes with before-/after-school care	93%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	62%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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El Dorado County

"I drive 20 minutes in one direction to drop my boys off at day care and then drive 40 minutes in the other direction to take my baby to the place that accepts infants. Then I drive the 20 minutes back to work, which is only three minutes from my house."

–Niki, single mother of three children, ages 7, 5, and 17 months

The Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe attract tourists to El Dorado County, but the mountainous terrain can inhibit transportation for many residents who call the county home. As a result, families find their child care options may be limited in geographically isolated communities, for example, or during winter months when road closures can make it impossible for parents to manage their usual commute to child care.

The county's proximity to Sacramento has helped stimulate local population and job growth. Large employers are moving into the county, including insurance services and high-tech companies, bringing thousands of new jobs. Choices for Children, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is working with business and community leaders to plan for the county's present and future child care needs.

There are fewer licensed child care slots

Unfortunately, some child care providers have left the field to pursue higher-paying work, contributing to a decrease in the overall supply of child care in the county since 1998. Because improving child care availability is a priority, the R&R and partnering organizations are trying to build the supply of licensed child care by encouraging license-exempt providers to become licensed. Grants from the state, the county, and others have helped to fund provider training and unit-based education, as well as weekly workshops, a comprehensive resource center with a mobile lending library, and provider stipends. "Regional collaboration has brought us a lot of additional resources, from training to technical assistance," says a Choices for Children director. "The early care and education workshops and technical assistance have helped our providers increase the quality of care in our communities."

As more parents have taken jobs that require rotating shifts, a growing number of family child care providers have begun to offer care during non-traditional hours. But the demand for care during these odd hours still outpaces supply. The R&R is also offering bilingual training to the increasing number of Spanish-speaking providers serving the community. As growth continues, more care will be needed, especially during non-traditional hours and for infants and school-age children.

R&R staff members are attempting to raise awareness about the importance of quality child care through a publicity campaign, outreach efforts at schools, and an annual "Kids' Expo," that draws about 6,000 participants each year. At the Expo and also Play-and-Learn program sites, parents can find out about quality care, child development, discipline, nutrition, and other topics.

For more information about child care in El Dorado County, call:

Choices for Children 530-676-0707

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**156,299**
% change in population 1990-2000		24%
Total number of children under 14		30,831
Total number of children under 18		40,792
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	13%	5,385
Total number of children ages 6-13		19,783
Total number of children ages 0-5		11,048
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	13%	1,447
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		21%

El Dorado has the 54th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	57%	17,860
% of children ages 6-13	62%	12,191
% of children ages 0-5	51%	5,669

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,193
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	60%
Median annual household income in the county	$48,221
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	25%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$44,302
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,572
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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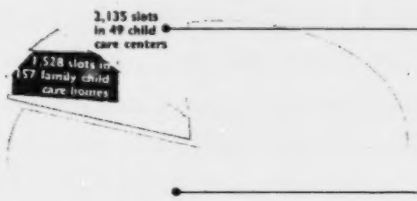
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in El Dorado County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in El Dorado County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 3,664 slots

58% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	81% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	14% of center slots

42% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 17,860

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	5,669 children
Ages 6-13	12,191 children

El Dorado County ranks 48th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 21% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	37% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	19% of calls
Family child care homes	86% of calls
Child care centers	74% of calls
In-home care[10]	40% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	40%
Part-time care	62%
Before- and/or after-school care	8%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	43%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	60%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 15 percent to 23 percent. Over that period, requests for in-home care increased from 5 percent to 40 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	23%

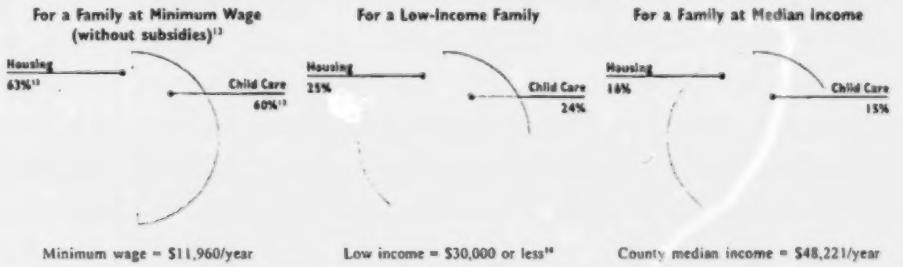
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	55	49	-11%
Slots for infants	138	103	-25%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,938	1,724	-11%
Slots: ages 6 and over	243	308	27%
Family child care homes	184	157	-15%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,630	1,528	-6%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	3%
Only part-time available	11%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	81%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	8%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	47%
Homes with before-/after-school care	71%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	9%
In family child care homes	29%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
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10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Fresno County

"I wish I could put my daughter in the subsidized program with my son, but I don't meet the qualifications. It's O.K. now that my daughter goes to school and the provider only takes care of her for two hours. But when it's the whole day during the summer, it's expensive."

–Lorena, mother of a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**799,407**
% change in population 1990-2000		20%
Total number of children under 14		200,136
Total number of children under 18		256,425
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	38%	97,442
Total number of children ages 6-13		118,012
Total number of children ages 0-5		82,124
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	42%	34,328
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	33%	

Fresno has the 3rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	48%	96,924
% of children ages 6-13	53%	62,353
% of children ages 0-5	42%	34,571

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,250
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	61%
Median annual household income in the county	$33,882
Care for an infant as % of median income	21%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	37%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,623
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,072
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Fresno County is, in terms of production, the top farm county in the nation. Its agricultural labor force consists mainly of migrant workers, who spend part of the year working long hours to gather crops and part of the year working only part-time or not at all. Despite the varying needs of farm-worker families, some child care providers are unwilling to serve families with irregular schedules. Parents find the lack of child care especially challenging in very rural areas and when looking for infant care.

Families wait for child care subsidies

The waiting list for subsidized child care is long, according to staff members at Central Valley Children's Services Network, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Although families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, receive financial assistance to pay for child care, there are insufficient funds for many other low-income families who are also eligible.

Many families use public transportation to get to and from child care and work. This prompts some parents, hoping to avoid the hassle of taking young children on public buses, to select care based on location rather than quality. Lack of transportation from school to child care can sometimes exclude children from school-age programs, forcing parents to leave them home alone in the afternoons.

New funding gives providers incentives

The R&R is partnering with other organizations to improve Fresno County's child care supply and quality. Funds from local colleges, the Fresno County Children and Families Commission, and state and local government have created incentives for child care providers, such as stipends for attending child development classes and start-up funds for family child care homes. As a result, many new providers have joined the profession since 1998, and the supply of licensed care has increased in nearly all categories. The quality of care has improved, also, thanks in part to a project of the R&R and the county's Department of Human Services that provides incentives for new caregivers who attend trainings.

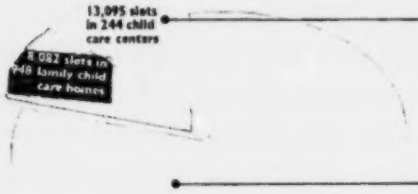
Meanwhile, R&R staff members take advantage of community fairs and childbirth classes as venues to educate parents about quality care. Their efforts are paying off. "Parents can tell which providers have been through training and have high quality programs," says an R&R counselor. "It is awesome to see how involved these providers are with the children and how active and happy the kids are. It's just that we need more of them."

For more information about child care in Fresno County, call:

Central Valley Children's Services Network
559-456-1100

Child Care Supply in Fresno County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Fresno County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 21,177 slots

62% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	72% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	22% of center slots

38% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 96,924

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	34,571 children
Ages 6-13	62,353 children

Fresno County ranks 44th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	34% of calls
Preschool care	35% of calls
School-age care	31% of calls
Family child care homes	60% of calls
Child care centers	40% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	67%
Part-time care	14%
Before- and/or after-school care	17%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	N/A
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	N/A

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for school-age care increased from 22 percent to 31 percent. Requests for part-time care decreased from 42 percent to 14 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	2%

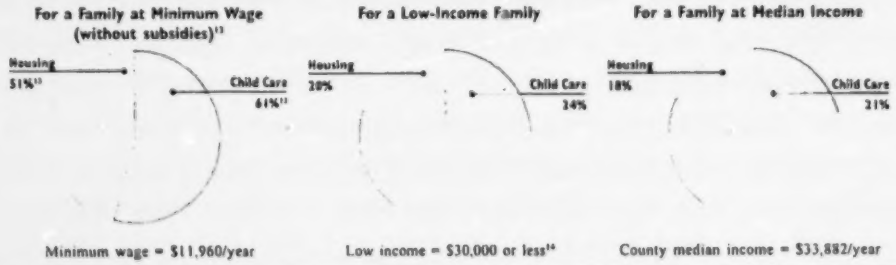
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	239	244	2%
Slots for infants	636	755	19%
Slots: ages 2-5	9,554	9,475	-1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	2,836	2,865	1%
Family child care homes	820	948	16%
Slots for all ages[8]	6,024	8,082	34%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	63%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	31%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	61%
Only full-time available	37%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	39%
Homes with before-/after-school care	44%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	18%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Glenn County

"If your income is more than totally destitute, there are no subsidies, but the cost of child care is very high. There are a lot of people in my situation who aren't getting help."

–Angela, single mother of three, including a child with special needs

The economy in rural Glenn County is predominantly agricultural. The lack of steady work in some parts of the county has caused the population to shift, as participants in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, relocate in search of jobs that match their skills and provide higher salaries. These population shifts have had an impact on child care demand: For example, demand has fallen in Willows but increased in Orland. Retail, another major source of jobs, often requires evening and weekend work or rotating shifts. Because most licensed child care facilities are closed during those times, families must parse together informal care provided by friends or relatives. These arrangements are not always long-term, so parents often shuffle their children among several different caregivers. Parents of children with special needs face added challenges, spending months searching for caregivers who have the appropriate training to attend to their children's needs.

Many Glenn County parents who find appropriate child care grapple with high costs. While families participating in CalWORKs receive financial assistance in paying for child care, there is not enough funding to supply subsidies to all low-income working families who are eligible for assistance. Head Start programs and state-funded preschools meet some of the need. But, for children of other ages and low-income working parents who do not receive a subsidy, there are limited affordable choices.

Spanish-speaking care is in demand

Latinos now make up nearly one-third of the county's population, and requests for Spanish-speaking providers have increased since 1996. The local resource and referral (R&R) agency, a part of the Glenn County Office of Education, is working to build the supply of Spanish-speaking providers and to increase child care capacity in the county. These and other efforts have contributed to a steady increase in the licensed child care supply since 1996.

The R&R has supported the Local Child Care Planning Council and the county Children and Families Commission in developing a CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program for providers. The program distributes stipends to providers who pursue additional child development education, especially in training that boosts the quality of infant and toddler care and care for children with special needs. Glenn County is also piloting a Web-based, central eligibility list for subsidized programs that will eventually help low-income

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**26,453**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		6,188
Total number of children under 18		8,141
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	29%	2,377
Total number of children ages 6-13		3,753
Total number of children ages 0-5		2,435
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	25%	606
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		31%

Glenn has the 28th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	50%	3,127
% of children ages 6-13	56%	2,092
% of children ages 0-5	43%	1,035

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$30,731
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	32%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Glenn County, call:

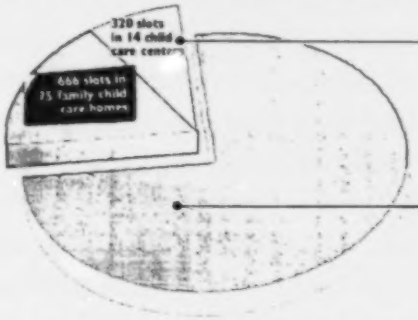
Office of Education,
Child Care Resource & Referral
530-865-1118

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Glenn County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Glenn County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 986 slots

32% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	86% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	14% of center slots

68% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 3,127

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,035 children
Ages 6-13	2,092 children

Glenn County ranks 11th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 32% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.2 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	25% of calls
Preschool care	55% of calls
School-age care	20% of calls
Family child care homes	99% of calls
Child care centers	13% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	84%
Part-time care	70%
Before- and/or after-school care	1%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	71%

In both 1998 and 2000, 6 percent of callers requested Spanish-speaking providers for their children. In 1996, there were no requests for such care.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	11%

Licensed Child Care Supply

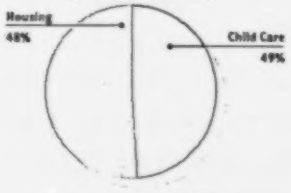
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	12	14	17%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	301	276	-8%
Slots: ages 6 and over	44	44	0%
Family child care homes	53	75	42%
Slots for all ages[8]	414	666	61%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	45%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	43%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	89%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	7%
Homes with before-/after-school care	64%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	19%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]

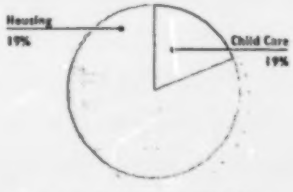


Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family

Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $30,731/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Humboldt County

"When my provider closed her day care, it was traumatic. We knew what else was out there, and if this provider wasn't there, we felt like we didn't have options."

–Chris, mother of a preschooler

Although the overall supply of child care in coastal Humboldt County is up, many working families continue to find it difficult to meet their particular child care needs. Typically, infants are difficult to place in licensed child care; providers opt instead to teach preschoolers, who can be served by a lower staff-to-child ratio. At the same time, preschool enrollment has been declining with a drop in Humboldt's birth rate over the past five years, so some child care centers focused on preschoolers have space available. Yet even those parents who need and use subsidized preschool are challenged when their children's programs are open only half a day, not the full day that most parents work.

Economic trends affect child care

Once home to a thriving timber industry, the county has experienced an economic slowdown over the past decade. Child care needs have changed, as some dislocated workers enter job training programs and enroll in night classes at local colleges to increase their skill levels. Other working parents have taken retail and food service jobs that require rotating shifts and evening or weekend hours, when child care availability is significantly lower than during the day.

The majority of children in Humboldt County are of elementary-school age, and many need after-school care. Although the supply of such care has increased slightly since 1998, it has not kept up with demand, according to the Humboldt Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "Working families need care throughout the day, not just during school hours," notes a director.

To increase the supply of child care, the R&R is using local television to attract interest in child care as a profession. They are also reaching out to the Latino community and offering introductory workshops in remote areas of the county. Child care licensing orientations are usually full, and potential providers often must put their names on waiting lists. The R&R provides support

county's CARES (Compensation and Retention

available for providers who remain in the profession

The R&R has collaborated with others to

child care. Working with the Employment

seeking parents to talk about choosing care. A new

care providers connect families with health

safety questions answered and get access to support and resources that ensure their children's well-being.

Humboldt County, call:

Humboldt Child Care Council
707-444-8293

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**126,518**
% change in population 1990-2000		6%
Total number of children under 14		21,950
Total number of children under 18		29,413
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	26%	7,647
Total number of children ages 6-13		13,330
Total number of children ages 0-5		8,620
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	25%	2,172
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	38%	

Humboldt has the 27th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	55%	12,061
% of children ages 6-13	60%	7,941
% of children ages 0-5	48%	4,120

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

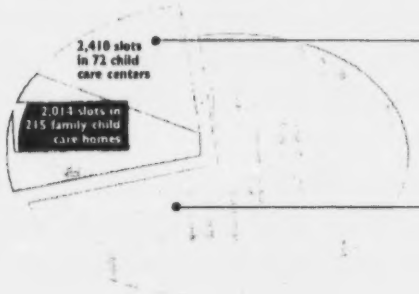
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care	
in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,250
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	52%
Care for an infant as % of median income	10%
[illegible]	
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,888
Salary of child care worker	$11,760
[illegible]	
Salary of elementary school teacher[7]	$38,188

through your local office. For more detailed information, see the full version of the Directory.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Humboldt County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Humboldt County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 4,424 slots

54% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	68% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	25% of center slots

46% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 12,061

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	4,120 children
Ages 6-13	7,941 children

Humboldt County ranks 5th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 37% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 2.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	36% of calls
Preschool care	41% of calls
School-age care	23% of calls
Family child care homes	91% of calls
Child care centers	9% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	46%
Part-time care	54%
Before- and/or after-school care	8%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	48%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	52%

Requests for infant/toddler care increased from 29 percent in 1998 to 36 percent in 2000; during that time, requests for full-time care increased to 46 percent from 19 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	12%

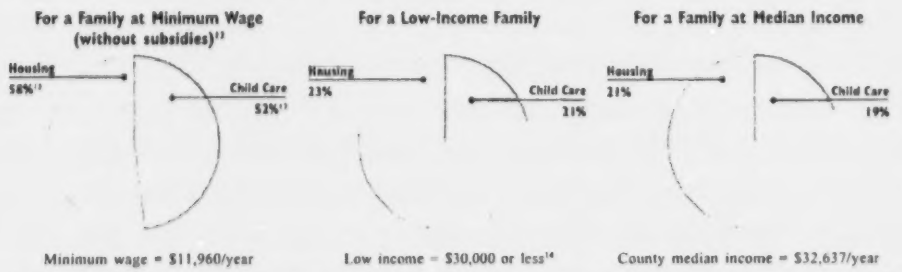
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	**1998**	**2000**	**Change**
Child care centers	67	72	7%
Slots for infants	95	155	63%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,608	1,642	2%
Slots: ages 6 and over	595	613	3%
Family child care homes	170	215	26%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,344	2,014	50%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	58%
Only full-time available	6%
Only part-time available	36%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	93%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	45%
Homes with before-/after-school care	91%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	35%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Imperial County

"I like knowing my son is in a child care environment that provides support, learning, and play activities. He'll know how to behave and follow rules, and it will be much easier for him to enter a classroom."

–Nancy, teacher and mother

Imperial County, on the U.S. border with Mexico, is home to small communities separated from one another by wide stretches of desert. Parts of the county have some of the lowest median incomes and the highest unemployment rates in California. Many families rely on CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, to help with child care expenses. But with looming CalWORKs time limits and thousands of other low-income families seeking assistance, more subsidies and affordable care options are needed. "The waiting lists for subsidies are getting longer," says a staff member at Child Development Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) program housed in the county Office of Education.

Existing subsidized programs do not meet all families' needs. Many preschools are open only half a day, not the full day most parents work. Although there have been substantial funds available for families participating in CalWORKs, the needs of other working low-income families have not been addressed. "We get a lot of calls from parents who need help paying for child care," explains an R&R manager. "Because they may have to wait months or years until they are served, we encourage families to call other subsidized programs in hopes their lists are shorter than ours."

Thousands of agricultural workers need care on a seasonal basis, and parents who work in retail stores, restaurants, and two local prisons need child care that accommodates their changing work schedules, which often include rotating shifts and evening and weekend hours. But the availability of care during non-traditional hours has not kept up with demand. In some parts of the county, a rapidly growing population strains the already tight child care supply. Licensed child care centers have few open slots and many children wait six or more months before an opening becomes available.

Provider group expands training

Despite the challenges, local child care advocates are seeing some positive trends. In 2000, family child care providers formed an association that works to increase training opportunities. Interest in preparing young children for school has prompted the county to invest in literacy training and preschool programs. The R&R works closely with the local child care planning council, the Department of Social Services, and other human services agencies to sponsor an Early Childhood Education Conference and to promote incentives to recruit new providers. A capacity-building grant from the state enabled the R&R to buy two vans for its mobile toy-lending library and help more than 100 new providers become licensed.

For more information about child care in Imperial County, call:

Imperial County Child Development Services
760-312-6431

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**142,361**
% change in population 1990-2000		30%
Total number of children under 14		34,250
Total number of children under 18		44,746
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	44%	19,599
Total number of children ages 6-13		21,026
Total number of children ages 0-5		13,224
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	58%	7,630
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		30%

Imperial has the highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	46%	15,745
% of children ages 6-13	48%	10,091
% of children ages 0-5	43%	5,654

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

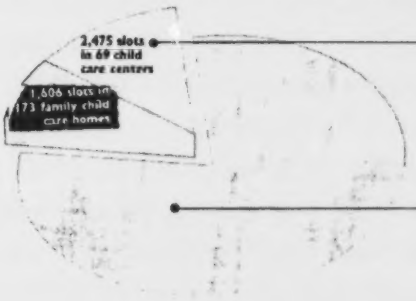
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,527
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	46%
Median annual household income in the county	$25,057
Care for an infant as % of median income	22%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	40%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$39,169
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,396
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Imperial County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Imperial County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 4,081 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	11% of center slots
Ages 2-5	79% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	10% of center slots

39% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 15,745

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	5,654 children
Ages 6-13	10,091 children

Imperial County ranks 33rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	26% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	31% of calls
Family child care homes	61% of calls
Child care centers	31% of calls
In-home care[10]	24% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	67%
Part-time care	35%
Before- and/or after-school care	26%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	20%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 1 percent to 27 percent. In 2000, 58 percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	27%

Licensed Child Care Supply

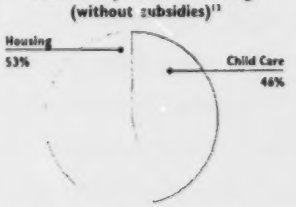
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	49	69	41%
Slots for infants	117	273	133%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,737	1,966	13%
Slots: ages 6 and over	137	236	72%
Family child care homes	71	173	144%
Slots for all ages[8]	644	1,606	149%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	58%
Only full-time available	17%
Only part-time available	26%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	98%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	19%
Homes with before-/after-school care	87%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	10%
In family child care homes	64%

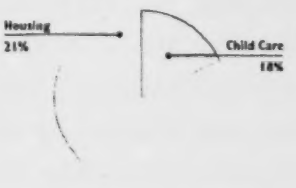
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]



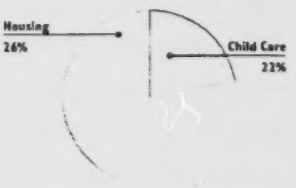
Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $25,057/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Inyo County

"It's hard to find after-school care when you need it for only two hours. I prefer family child care, but for after-school care, that's been hard for me to find."

–Melissa, working mother of a 9-year-old

Covering more than 10,000 square miles, Inyo County is larger than many states. But with fewer than 18,000 residents countywide, its entire population is less than that of many moderate-sized towns, and Inyo is one of few California counties with a population that has declined over the past decade. Despite this decrease in population, demand for child care is not met, and availability of child care is uneven across the county. Areas that are geographically isolated suffer the greatest shortages. With tourism playing a major role in the local economy, many residents work in related restaurant and hospitality industry jobs, prompting demand for weekend and evening child care.

Child care subsidies make a difference

According to Child Care Connection, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency which is operated by the Inyo County Office of Education, the scarcity of government child care subsidies severely limits families' child care options. "Some child care centers aren't full because there isn't enough funding to provide subsidies to all eligible families," says an R&R staff member. "Without these subsidies, many parents cannot afford to put their children in centers." Assistance paying for child care makes a big difference for parents, who say without subsidies they would not be able to work.

There have been some improvements in the child care situation. Child Care Connection has increased its recruitment and incentive programs to build the supply of quality care in the county. Funds are available for centers and home-based providers who increase the number of slots they have for children. New providers receive a start-up kit to help them make their facility safe and to assist them in creating a successful business. Child Care Connection offers classes, such as "Time and Stress Management," to teach providers the skills they will need to stay in the profession and enjoy their work, along with classes on child development. A mobile lending library with teaching resources is available to family child care providers. These efforts have contributed to an increase, since 1998, in the county's child care supply, particularly in family child care homes.

The R&R partners with an adult education program to offer health and safety classes, including CPR and First Aid. Child Care Connection distributes information about child development and quality care and counsels parents to help them understand what constitutes quality child care. The agency also has a public lending library with age-appropriate books and toys and kits for parents to use as they explore the joy of playing with and reading to their children.

For more information about child care in Inyo County, call:

Child Care Connection 760-873-5123

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**17,945**
% change in population 1990-2000		-2%
Total number of children under 14		3,221
Total number of children under 18		4,376
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	22%	941
Total number of children ages 6-13		2,048
Total number of children ages 0-5		1,173
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	23%	264
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	37%	

Inyo has the 36th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	1,905
% of children ages 6-13	63%	1,299
% of children ages 0-5	52%	606

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

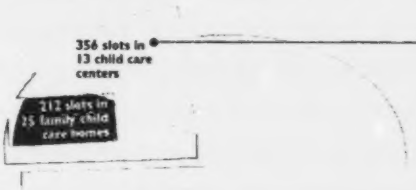
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,518
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$35,260
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	32%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,259
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,600
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Inyo County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Inyo County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 568 slots

63% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	2% of center slots
Ages 2-5	64% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	34% of center slots

37% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,905

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	606 children
Ages 6-13	1,299 children

Inyo County ranks 14th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 30% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	20% of calls
Preschool care	62% of calls
School-age care	18% of calls
Family child care homes	89% of calls
Child care centers	16% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	79%
Part-time care	24%
Before- and/or after-school care	5%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	20%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 51 to 82 percent, while requests for part-time care for children under six fell from 56 to 20 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	21%

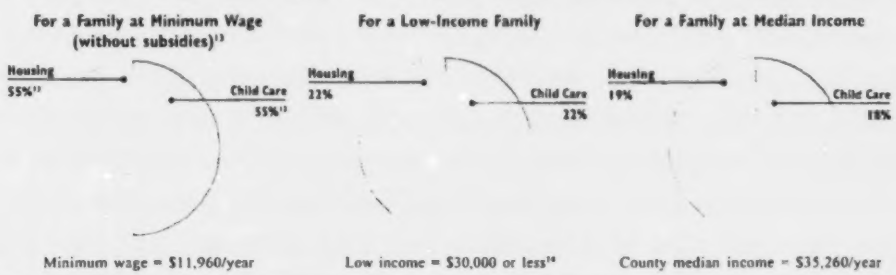
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	**1998**	**2000**	**Change**
Child care centers	11	13	18%
Slots for infants	0	8	N/A
Slots: ages 2-5	252	228	-10%
Slots: ages 6 and over	71	120	69%
Family child care homes	24	25	4%
Slots for all ages[8]	180	212	18%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	51%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	42%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	71%
Only full-time available	25%
Only part-time available	4%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	40%
Homes with before-/after-school care	64%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	40%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Kern County

"Family child care has been good for us. My son and I became friends with our last family child care provider and her kids. It's kind of like an extended family."

–Teresa, mother of a 5-year-old

Located at the southern edge of the Central Valley, Kern County is California's third largest county in area and among the fastest-growing in population. As in other neighboring Central Valley counties, Kern's economy is based largely on agriculture. Parents working in farming, retail, and warehouse distribution jobs often earn low wages and are burdened by the high cost of child care. Infant care expenses sometimes encompass more of a family's budget than rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

Families seek affordable care

Thousands of low-income families who qualify for child care assistance linger on eligibility lists, because of a shortage of subsidy dollars. "The working poor are falling through the cracks," explains a staff member with Community Connection for Child Care, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Families who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, have access to child care subsidies, but many still have trouble finding licensed child care that accommodates their rotating work schedules or that is close to home and doesn't require driving. CalWORKs families often turn to relatives, friends, and neighbors (license-exempt child care), while at the same time, some new centers and family child care homes in parts of the county have difficulty filling their programs.

Throughout the county, child care advocates are working to increase the supply and quality of care, especially for the county's rapidly growing Latino population, for children with special needs, and in areas where poverty is widespread. Collaboration with the Children and Families Commission and local social service agencies has enabled the R&R to offer business skills training and technical assistance to licensed providers and televised training for providers who want to continue their education. These efforts helped to increase the number of slots in family child care homes in the past two years. The R&R also offers training for license-exempt caregivers. As the R&R director puts it, "There is growing awareness about the difference between watching a child and caring for that child."

Awareness of the need for quality child care is increasing. Through the Local Investment in Child Care project and the Packard Foundation, a micro-loan fund helps child care providers make needed improvements or expand their services. Providing parents with information about quality care and how to identify it is part of the R&R's mission. This includes distributing a packet to every new mother in the county.

For more information about child care in Kern County, call:

Community Connection for Child Care
661-861-5200

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**661,645**
% change in population 1990-2000		22%
Total number of children under 14		165,111
Total number of children under 18		211,379
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	30%	63,836
Total number of children ages 6-13		97,430
Total number of children ages 0-5		67,681
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	32%	21,861
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		33%

Kern has the 12th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	53%	87,623
% of children ages 6-13	57%	55,976
% of children ages 0-5	47%	31,647

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,201
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	52%
Median annual household income in the county	$34,711
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$39,172
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,180
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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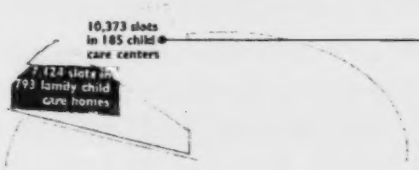
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Kern County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Kern County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 17,497 slots

59% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	76% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	19% of center slots

41% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 87,623

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	31,647 children
Ages 6-13	55,976 children

Kern County ranks 51st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 20% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	29% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	29% of calls
Family child care homes	89% of calls
Child care centers	93% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	78%
Part-time care	28%
Before- and/or after-school care	15%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	83%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	20%

The percent of requests for care in centers increased from 78 percent in 1998 to 93 percent in 2000. In 2000, 4 percent of callers requested providers who could accommodate a rotating schedule.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	11%

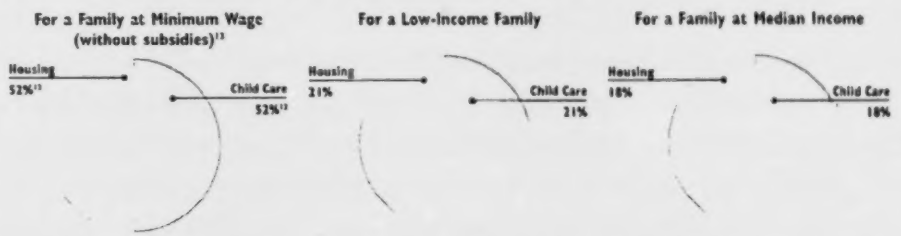
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	175	185	6%
Slots for infants	466	496	6%
Slots: ages 2-5	7,621	7,862	3%
Slots: ages 6 and over	2,094	2,015	-4%
Family child care homes	534	793	49%
Slots for all ages[8]	4,594	7,124	55%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	64%
Only full-time available	10%
Only part-time available	26%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	46%
Homes with before-/after-school care	85%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	44%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Kings County

"I work all different hours, as early as 7 a.m. and sometimes until 11 p.m. Most day care centers close around 6 or 7 p.m. I found one that was open late, but I just learned a few weeks ago they're going to cut their hours."

–Letisha, mother of a 2-year-old

In rural Kings County, more than a third of the work force is employed in agricultural or retail and service jobs, which tend to pay low wages and make it difficult for parents to cover the full cost of licensed child care. Jobs that pay more than the minimum wage, such as in manufacturing, are increasingly hard to find: Recently, a tire company closed a plant in Hanford where several hundred people were employed. According to Kings Community Action Organization, the local child care resource and referral (R&R) agency, more than 1,000 children from low-income families are on waiting lists for child care subsidies. Although they are eligible for this financial assistance, there are not enough funds to go around, and some families wait more than 18 months before receiving assistance, says an R&R staff member.

Some of Kings County's largest employers – including hospitals, the state prison in Corcoran, a casino, and a call center – ask employees to be flexible with their work schedules, which can change from week to week and may include nights and weekends. Finding licensed child care to accommodate such schedules is very difficult, so many parents choose license-exempt care. "Because they don't have many options, parents find friends and neighbors to take care of their children, or they switch shifts with co-workers and care for each other's children," says an R&R staff member.

Child care availability has improved

Kings Community Action Organization has been successful in improving the availability of licensed child care, with more child care providers offering care to school-age children and infants (who remain the least represented age group in slots at child care centers). To continue improving the quality and supply of child care, the R&R is collaborating with the county Children and Families Commission and the local child care planning council on an accreditation program for family child care homes and centers. Through the accreditation process, providers are being trained to meet a variety of facility and program requirements, in addition to those necessary to become licensed.

The R&R and its partners are always looking for ways to help parents get all the information about child care they need in one place. The R&R has worked with the planning council to create a brochure that lists all child care programs in the county, including private centers, subsidized programs, Head Start, faith-based child care, and others.

For more information about child care in Kings County, call:

Kings County Community Action Organization: 559-582-4386

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**129,461**
% change in population 1990-2000		28%
Total number of children under 14		29,556
Total number of children under 18		37,528
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	31%	11,746
Total number of children ages 6-13		17,067
Total number of children ages 0-5		12,489
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	32%	3,934
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		31%
Kings has the 14th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.		

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	50%	14,944
% of children ages 6-13	55%	9,398
% of children ages 0-5	44%	5,546

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,100
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	43%
Median annual household income in the county	$32,799
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	28%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,398
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,192
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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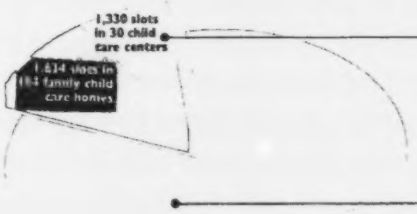
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Kings County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Kings County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 2,964 slots

45% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	71% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	25% of center slots

55% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 14,943

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	5,546 children
Ages 6-13	9,398 children

Kings County ranks 52nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 20% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	24% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	32% of calls
Family child care homes	73% of calls
Child care centers	15% of calls
In-home care[10]	13% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	80%
Part-time care	45%
Before- and/or after-school care	15%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	87%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	36%

Requests for care in child care centers rose to 15 percent in 2000 from just 1 percent in 1998. Requests for in-home care also increased from none to 13 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	5%

Licensed Child Care Supply

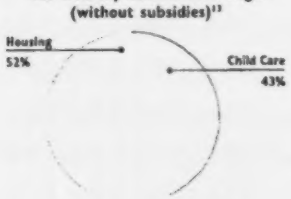
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	30	30	0%
Slots for infants	8	49	513%
Slots: ages 2-5	899	945	5%
Slots: ages 6 and over	251	336	34%
Family child care homes	171	184	8%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,410	1,634	16%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	63%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	35%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	27%
Homes with before-/after-school care	96%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	3%

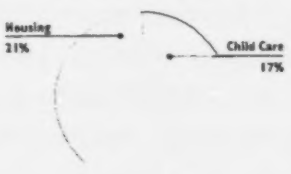
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]



Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income

County median income = $32,799/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Lake County

"We've got it all backwards: Professors get paid well to teach adults, but the people who watch our children at the most crucial time in their life are paid next to nothing."

–Anne, mother of an 11-year-old daughter

Home to the largest freshwater lake in California, Lake County hosts thousands of tourists yearly and many of its residents work in food service, hotel, housekeeping, and recreational facility jobs. One 24-hour travel service call center employs about 500 residents. Parents in any of these jobs often require child care that is flexible to accommodate schedules that may not adhere to the traditional 9-to-5 workday. Many families subsist on low wages and need financial assistance to pay for child care. Yet a large subsidized child care facility has been struggling to stay open, as minimal state funding, increased operating expenses, and difficulties retaining staff present challenges. This threatens to reduce the availability of child care for the very families that need it and to put further strain on the county's already tight child care supply. Publicly funded preschools meet only part of the need, since most of these programs operate half-days, rather than the full days needed by working parents.

Most low-income and rural families, deterred by long drives to the nearest licensed child care facility, have relatives or friends care for their children, says a staff member at North Coast Opportunities – Rural Communities Child Care, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. In partnership with the county Children and Families Commission and with state funding through the Child Care Initiative Project, the R&R has been working to increase the supply of quality child care options for families through expanded provider training and financial incentive programs. The R&R reports increased attendance at workshops that bring in specialists from the University of California, Davis and WestEd, a nonprofit education research group.

Providers seek small business skills

Through local community colleges, the R&R has begun offering a series of classes on how to operate a family child care home. The curriculum includes child development information as well as courses on small business practices. As providers understand more about child development and develop safety skills, community members are also becoming increasingly aware of the importance of child care to the local economy. The R&R has worked with family resource centers, social service agencies, local newspapers, and schools to spread word of its services. Nonetheless, says an R&R staff member, "We've still got a lot of work to do helping people understand that child care is more than babysitting."

For more information about child care in Lake County, call:

North Coast Opportunities –
Rural Communities Child Care 707-462-1954

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**58,309**
% change in population 1990-2000		15%
Total number of children under 14		10,613
Total number of children under 18		14,062
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	33%	4,669
Total number of children ages 6-13		6,824
Total number of children ages 0-5		3,789
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	36%	1,353
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		41%

Lake has the 6th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	50%	5,382
% of children ages 6-13	55%	3,767
% of children ages 0-5	43%	1,615

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

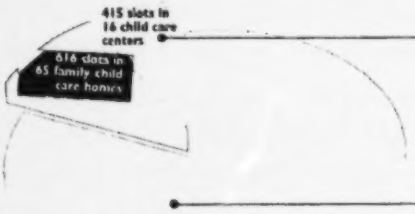
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$29,279
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	37%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$40,610
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,032
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Lake County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Lake County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,031 slots

40% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	11% of center slots
Ages 2-5	84% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	6% of center slots

60% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 5,382

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,615 children
Ages 6-13	3,767 children

Lake County ranks 53rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 19% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 5.2 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	28% of calls
Preschool care	39% of calls
School-age care	33% of calls
Family child care homes	98% of calls
Child care centers	41% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	46%
Part-time care	57%
Before- and/or after-school care	13%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	49%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	55%

In 2000, 26 percent of requests were for care during non-traditional hours, up from 22 percent in 1998. Requests for care in family child care homes increased from 88 percent in 1998 to 98 percent in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	26%

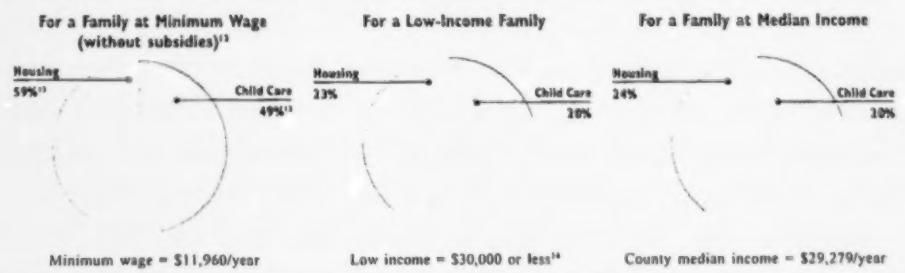
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	17	16	-6%
Slots for infants	27	45	67%
Slots: ages 2-5	379	347	-8%
Slots: ages 6 and over	83	23	-72%
Family child care homes	81	65	-20%
Slots for all ages[8]	746	616	-17%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	47%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	53%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	87%
Only full-time available	4%
Only part-time available	9%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	41%
Homes with before-/after-school care	88%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	14%
In family child care homes	45%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Lassen County

"For a parent, child care is a big chunk of your paycheck. There had been talk about more dollars to help parents pay for child care, but then the energy crisis happened."

–Phyllis, mother of a 9-year-old

In the small towns that dot Lassen County, located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, many working parents rely on relatives or friends to care for their children because there is no licensed care nearby. Families with infants and toddlers discover there is very limited care available for their young children. "There are parts of the county where we have, literally, no licensed providers," says a staff member at Lassen Child and Family Resources, the resource and referral (R&R) agency run through Lassen County's Office of Education.

The cost of care is increasing

Low-income families who manage to find child care may have difficulty paying for it, especially since the expense of care continues to rise. "We *can* help families who have government subsidies through welfare-to-work programs," says an R&R staff member, "but child care aid for other low-income families is maxed out." Added to some families' burden is the challenge of finding care during nights and weekends, when many low-income parents work. The county is home to two large prisons and several retail and service outlets that require employees around the clock.

To recruit providers, the county's CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program offers financial incentives for potential child care workers as well as to veterans in the field, who often complain of burnout. The R&R also hosts workshops on topics as diverse as stress management and business skills. Together with the county Children and Families Commission and countywide social service agencies, the R&R is developing a program to expand continuing education for child care workers and provide stipends for them.

Because child care has some of the highest staff turnover rates of any profession nationwide, steps are being taken to improve retention. Pennsylvania State University has brought its satellite courses for family child care providers to Lassen County. The courses include presentations to boost caregivers' child development skills, with suggested age-appropriate activities, story-telling techniques, and tools for early education.

Helping parents learn to recognize the elements of quality care is also important. At local hospitals, the R&R provides new parents with a tote bag containing information on children's brain development, choosing child care, health and safety, and other resources. The R&R hopes that this information will help parents become educated consumers and begin planning their child care arrangements early.

For more information about child care in Lassen County, call:

Lassen Child & Family Resources 530-257-9781

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**33,828**
% change in population 1990-2000		23%
Total number of children under 14		5,601
Total number of children under 18		7,389
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	23%	1,692
Total number of children ages 6-13		3,540
Total number of children ages 0-5		2,061
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	27%	563
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		32%

Lassen has the 25th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	49%	2,768
% of children ages 6-13	55%	1,934
% of children ages 0-5	40%	834

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$4,800
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	40%
Median annual household income in the county	$39,495
Care for an infant as % of median income	12%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	25%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,944
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,928
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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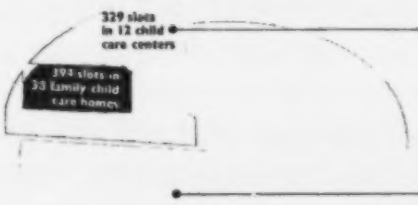
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Lassen County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Lassen County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 723 slots

46% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	75% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	20% of center slots

54% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 2,768

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	834 children
Ages 6-13	1,934 children

Lassen County ranks 30th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	30% of calls
Preschool care	50% of calls
School-age care	21% of calls
Family child care homes	94% of calls
Child care centers	25% of calls
In-home care[10]	6% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	59%
Part-time care	53%
Before- and/or after-school care	12%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	60%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	54%

Requests for care during non-traditional hours increased between 1998 and 2000, from 15 percent to 21 percent, and requests for infant/toddler care increased from 25 percent to 30 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	21%

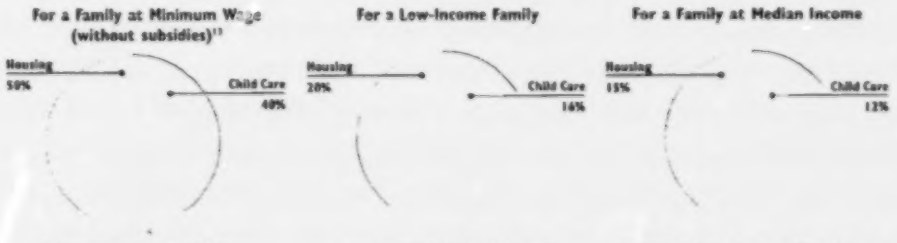
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	11	12	9%
Slots for infants	0	14	N/A
Slots: ages 2-5	257	248	-4%
Slots: ages 6 and over	113	67	-41%
Family child care homes	40	38	-5%
Slots for all ages[8]	388	394	2%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	55%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	45%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	27%
Homes with before-/after-school care	84%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	21%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Los Angeles County

"Child care for my two children is almost $1,000 per month, but at least it's quality care. I looked at a lot of places, and I found many caregivers who are frustrated because they're not getting paid enough. Parents should be able to get reliable, quality child care, even if they don't make a lot of money."

–Tessa, single mother of a toddler and a preschooler

With the largest population of any U.S. county and more children under the age of 5 than in 45 entire states, Los Angeles County has hundreds of thousands of young children in child care. Working parents grapple with traffic and limited public transportation that lengthen commutes and increase the need for longer hours of care. Escalating housing costs create an additional burden in one of the most expensive areas in the state for licensed care. Because of the sheer size of Los Angeles' child care system, ensuring that families get access to quality, affordable child care is a complex task, but one that the county's 10 local resource and referral (R&R) agencies* work together to achieve.

Rising child care costs worry families

According to staff members at the county's R&Rs, the cost of licensed care has been rising steadily, making it difficult for even middle-income families to balance child care with other expenses. More than three quarters of a million of the county's children live in poverty. And thousands more eligible, low-income families outside the welfare system cannot afford to pay for care and do not receive subsidies because of a funding shortage.

Many low-income families have relatives, friends, and neighbors care for their children, particularly when they need flexible child care to accommodate parents' rotating work schedules. A survey conducted by the R&Rs found that many license-exempt caregivers welcome more training and the opportunity to become licensed. Thus, the R&Rs have expanded their services, offering workshops and training in at least eight languages to all caregivers who seek to become licensed or to improve the quality of care they offer to children.

Communities face limited access to care

The local child care system suffers from imbalances in supply and demand: Licensed programs struggle to maintain enrollment in many parts of the county where parents often turn to license-exempt care. But they fall far short of demand in other areas. The rising cost of living has prompted many new mothers to return to work earlier, but slots for children under 24 months make up only 5 percent of the county's licensed child care in centers. Meanwhile, there is only one space in licensed child care for every 28 school-age children with working parents, and the R&Rs say more care is needed for the growing number of kids with behavioral issues or physical or mental disabilities. To address these imbalances, the R&Rs form strategic collaborations with other community agencies, participate on planning committees, emphasize outreach to parents and providers, and work closely with each other to build awareness and create solutions.

*Child and Family Services; Child Care Information Service of Pasadena; Child Care Resource Center; Children's Home Society of California; Crystal Stairs, Inc.; Connections for Children; Mexican American Opportunities Foundation; Options, Child Care Information Service of Pomona; and Center for Community and Family Services.

For more information about child care in Los Angeles County, call 1-800-543-7793

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**9,519,338**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		2,125,915
Total number of children under 18		2,667,976
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	31%	813,733
Total number of children ages 6-13		1,229,772
Total number of children ages 0-5		896,143
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	34%	302,000
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		27%

Los Angeles has the 7th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	53%	1,321,043
% of children ages 6-13	56%	856,899
% of children ages 0-5	50%	464,144

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,340
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	61%
Median annual household income in the county	$39,089
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	32%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$52,319
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,192
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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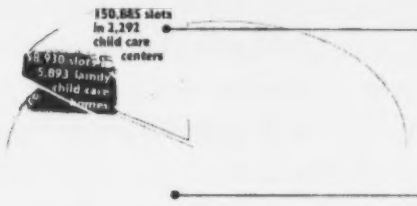
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Los Angeles County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Los Angeles County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 209,815 slots

72% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	75% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	21% of center slots

28% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,321,043

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	464,144 children
Ages 6-13	856,899 children

Los Angeles County ranks 56th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 16% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 6.3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	30% of calls
Preschool care	45% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	66% of calls
Child care centers	72% of calls
In-home care[10]	3% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	80%
Part-time care	23%
Before- and/or after-school care	16%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	88%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	14%

Between 1998 and 2000, the percent of requests for care in centers increased from 63 percent to 72 percent. In 2000, 11 percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

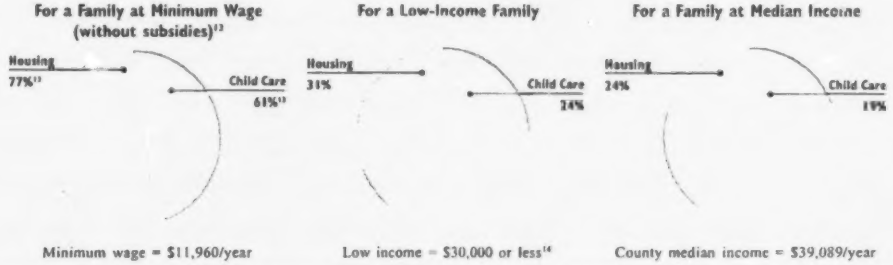
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	2,169	2,292	6%
Slots for infants	5,525	6,885	25%
Slots: ages 2-5	113,450	112,971	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	23,349	31,029	33%
Family child care homes	5,046	5,893	17%
Slots for all ages[8]	44,487	58,930	32%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	72%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	17%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	89%
Only full-time available	10%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	39%
Homes with before-/after-school care	71%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	49%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Madera County

"Being a single parent is hard enough. I feel thankful that my children are being cared for by a reliable person and that they are safe."

– Suzette, mother of four

Madera County's fast-growing population has increased the number of children needing care, but also spurred an expansion in the number of child care slots. However, since roughly one-third of the county's residents work in agriculture, their employment status fluctuates with the seasons, contributing to high rates of unemployment, poverty, and a complex child care demand. For many low-wage workers, the cost of putting their children in licensed care is prohibitive. Hundreds of working families depend on child care subsidies, without which many simply would not be able to work, but there are not enough subsidies to meet the need.

Efforts by the Madera County Community Action Agency Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) to increase the number of licensed child care slots have been fruitful. "The supply of child care is actually good in most areas," notes a staff member with the R&R. "We have been successful at getting people licensed in areas where we used to have gaps. Now the gap is in the availability of subsidies and affordable child care."

Care needed during non-traditional hours

Given low growth in the supply of licensed child care slots during non-traditional hours, the R&R is ramping up efforts to recruit providers who can accommodate rotating schedules and are open during evenings and weekends. Staff members at the R&R encourage providers who are new to the child care field to consider providing care during these hours. By offering non-traditional hour care, many providers have maintained full or near-full enrollment.

Quality child care is still in short supply, however, especially in the more isolated mountain towns. "Although there are child care centers in some of those areas, parents have few choices when looking for infant care or care during weekends and evenings," says an R&R staff member.

Caregivers are attending training

In addition to recruiting new providers, the R&R offers training to those already in the child care profession as well as to working parents' relatives, friends, and neighbors who provide license-exempt care. A local regulation that requires caregivers to complete 24 hours of training each year has increased enrollment in R&R workshops. More providers are learning how to care for children with special needs, interact successfully with parents, and ensure that their businesses are financially stable.

For more information about child care in Madera County, call:

Madera County Community Action Agency
Child Care Resource & Referral
559-675-8469

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**123,109**
% change in population 1990-2000		40%
Total number of children under 14		28,083
Total number of children under 18		36,467
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	36%	12,946
Total number of children ages 6-13		16,614
Total number of children ages 0-5		11,469
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	42%	4,794
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		29%

Madera has the 3rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	53%	14,858
% of children ages 6-13	58%	9,605
% of children ages 0-5	46%	5,253

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

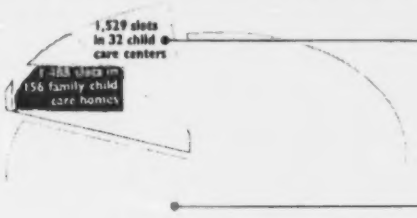
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,301
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	53%
Median annual household income in the county	$33,043
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	33%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$37,449
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,072
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Madera County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Madera County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 3,017 slots

51% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	76% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	20% of center slots

49% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 14,858

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	5,253 children
Ages 6-13	9,605 children

Madera County ranks 50th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 20% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	25% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	32% of calls
Family child care homes	96% of calls
Child care centers	53% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	81%
Part-time care	23%
Before- and/or after-school care	15%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	19%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 9 percent to 15 percent. In 2000, 17 percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	15%

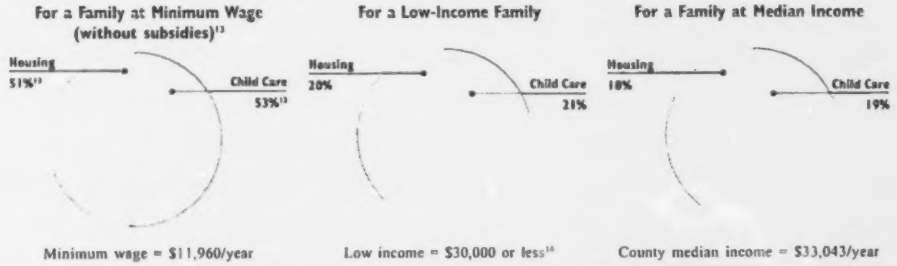
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	32	32	0%
Slots for infants	59	63	7%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,165	1,166	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	325	300	-8%
Family child care homes	120	156	30%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,186	1,488	25%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	74%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	19%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	81%
Only full-time available	16%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	45%
Homes with before-/after-school care	94%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	28%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Marin County

"When you find child care workers who follow the rules and are doing enriching activities, you have such peace of mind."

–Robin, mother of a 2-year-old

Marin County has the lowest unemployment rate and some of the highest real estate prices in California. The cost of living makes staying in Marin County nearly impossible for child care workers who earn low wages, and many Marin-based providers have left the profession in search of higher-paying careers. One child care center closed because it could no longer afford its rent; another shut its doors after losing a significant number of staff. Turnover has been even higher among family child care providers, who find their income rarely covers living expenses. Public interest in child care is growing, however: Some cities, such as San Rafael, are investing in child care centers, and a recent survey of Marin residents revealed that more than 90 percent support the inclusion of before- and after-school programs on public school campuses.

Despite the overall affluence of the county, Marin is home to many low-income families who struggle to find affordable care, particularly for infants and school-aged children. School districts report having long waiting lists for any after-school programs they offer. In fact, the county is saturated with working parents who need child care but face financial and logistical obstacles. "Some families have moved out of the county due to their inability to find child care," says a staff member at Marin Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. The high cost of l[illegible].ng and long commutes to work are having an impact on child care arrangements: The same survey mentioned above showed that location and cost, not quality, are the top considerations for parents when choosing care.

Child care efforts target supply and quality

Despite the challenges, child care advocates are collaborating on several new initiatives designed to improve quality and increase the quantity of child care slots. Child care center staff and licensed home providers have responded enthusiastically to incentives provided by the CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) project, a public-private partnership that rewards providers who obtain additional training and education. In addition, a facilities coordinator position has been created in the county to help licensed child care programs stay in business. A top priority for the Marin Child Care Council is finding new ways to reach out to working parents, including providing referrals by e-mail and information and resources on its Web site.

For more information about child care in Marin County, call:

Marin Child Care Council 415-479-2273

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**247,289**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		39,323
Total number of children under 18		50,185
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	10%	4,768
Total number of children ages 6-13		23,217
Total number of children ages 0-5		16,106
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	8%	1,240
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		14%

Marin has the lowest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	62%	24,486
% of children ages 6-13	66%	15,273
% of children ages 0-5	57%	9,213

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

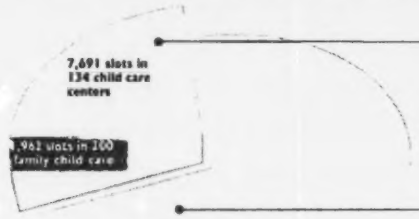
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$9,789
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	82%
Median annual household income in the county	$65,398
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	27%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$63,586
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$16,344
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Marin County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Marin County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 9,653 slots

80% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	64% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	31% of center slots

20% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 24,486

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	9,213 children
Ages 6-13	15,273 children

Marin County ranks 4th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 39% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 2.5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	47% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	11% of calls
Family child care homes	80% of calls
Child care centers	76% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	66%
Part-time care	43%
Before- and/or after-school care	18%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	65%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	43%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant/toddler care increased from 31 percent to 47 percent, while requests for school-age care decreased from 29 percent to 11 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	10%

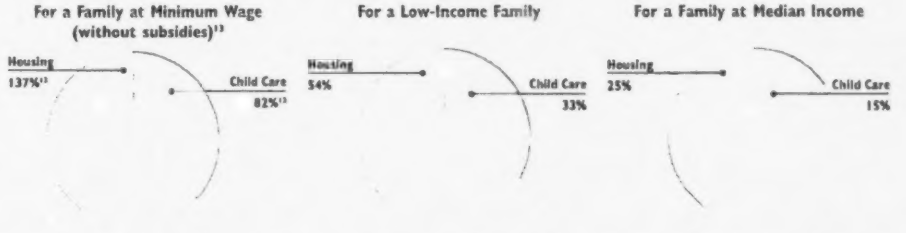
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	141	134	-5%
Slots for infants	666	427	-36%
Slots: ages 2-5	4,929	4,911	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	2,284	2,353	3%
Family child care homes	228	200	-12%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,720	1,962	14%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	90%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	8%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	87%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	9%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	41%
Homes with before-/after-school care	25%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	18%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center


For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]
Housing 137%[13]
Child Care 82%[13]
Minimum wage = $11,960/year
For a Low-Income Family
Housing 54%
Child Care 33%
Low income = $30,000 or less[14]
For a Family at Median Income
Housing 25%
Child Care 15%
County median income = $65,398/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Mariposa County

"Our family spent a year and a half on a waiting list for child care subsidies. Now that we have help, we can do things we couldn't afford to before. We can now buy school-clothes, for example, and we no longer live in substandard housing."

–Amber, single mother of three

An estimated 40 percent of Mariposa County's labor force works in food service, retail, and hotel jobs, reflecting the important role tourism at Yosemite National Park plays in the county. Unfortunately for scores of parents who earn low wages and need assistance paying for child care, waiting lists for subsidies are long. Some local families, whose low incomes make them eligible for financial assistance, must wait for more than a year to receive funds, as there are not enough subsidies to go around.

Child care options are limited

Family child care homes are at full capacity, and space at child care centers is limited. Federal Head Start and state preschool programs meet only a portion of the need for preschool children, and Healthy Start programs have a limited number of slots. No child care centers in the county have slots for infants.

Although a number of tourism-related restaurant, hotel, and recreational jobs require employees to work during weekends and evenings, there is a dearth of care available during those hours. Periodic road closures add logistical complications for parents and providers alike, who find transportation to and from child care facilities unpredictable.

Families need stable child care

Many families rely on relatives and friends (license-exempt caregivers) to watch their children when faced with limited options. But, according to staff at Infant/Child Enrichment Services (ICES), the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, this type of care can be unstable if family and friends find other jobs or have other priorities. "What tends to happen is children are shuffled from one sitter to another," says an R&R staff member. "Children miss the continuity of having the same provider during their critical early years." Because of low wages, turnover is also high among licensed child care providers.

To promote the child care field to potential providers, ICES staff keep the community and local media informed about training opportunities. The R&R helps new providers with grants to cover training and licensing fees. But the seasonal nature of the needs of the work force in the county and inconsistent demand for child care can be deterrents for some potential providers, who need to earn an income year-round. Parents also complain that public investment in children's programs seems limited, as fewer young families have been moving to the county and a growing population of senior citizens has begun to wield its policy influence, which sometimes ignores the needs of children.

For more information about child care in Mariposa County, call:

Infant/Child Enrichment Services 209-966-4474

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**17,130**
% change in population 1990-2000		20%
Total number of children under 14		2,704
Total number of children under 18		3,703
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	1,004
Total number of children ages 6-13		1,794
Total number of children ages 0-5		910
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	30%	268
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		29%

Mariposa has the 17th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	56%	1,504
% of children ages 6-13	56%	1,001
% of children ages 0-5	55%	503

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,518
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$33,444
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,070
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,492
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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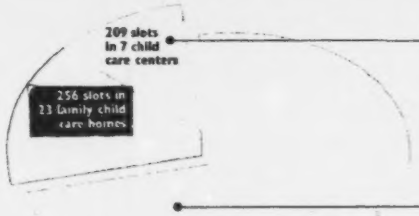
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Mariposa County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Mariposa County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 465 slots

45% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	30% of center slots

55% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,504

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	503 children
Ages 6-13	1,001 children

Mariposa County ranks 12th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 31% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.2 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	14% of calls
Preschool care	59% of calls
School-age care	27% of calls
Family child care homes	93% of calls
Child care centers	48% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	63%
Part-time care	37%
Before- and/or after-school care	2%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	61%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	39%

Requests for full-time care rose from 34 percent in 1998 to 63 percent in 2000, while requests for preschool care increased from 42 percent to 59 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	37%

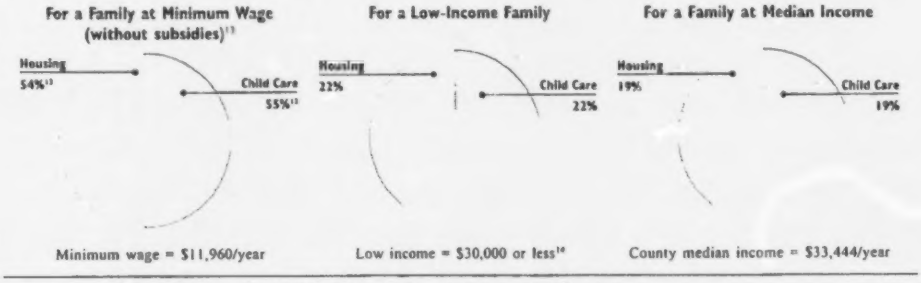
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	8	7	-13%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	161	146	-9%
Slots: ages 6 and over	63	63	0%
Family child care homes	27	23	-15%
Slots for all ages[8]	296	256	-14%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	47%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	53%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	43%
Homes with before-/after-school care	96%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	48%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Mendocino County

"I make almost $15 an hour, which is more than a lot of people in this county earn. But I can't afford to pay for child care and save enough to buy a car, which is a real necessity here. Child care for my son is really expensive."

–Naida, single mother of a kindergartner

An increasing number of retirees and second-home buyers are moving to coastal Mendocino County, putting pressure on the housing market in this rural county, known for its scenic beauty and small, tightly knit communities. For many families, it can be a struggle to afford housing and child care, two necessities that take up a huge portion of the family budget. "The wages in this county aren't high, so both parents need to work," explains a director of North Coast Opportunities – Rural Communities Child Care, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Low-income families need more subsidized child care, yet the county's largest publicly funded child development center, a 20-year-old program, closed in 2001 due to a shortage of state funding and an inability to keep up with operating expenses.

Many families ask relatives or friends to care for their children but sometimes complain that they cannot find consistent child care at a time when their children are very young. While there has been growth in the availability of infant care in licensed child care centers, only 6 percent of center slots are reserved for children under 24 months.

The total supply of child care has increased

The R&R has worked with partner agencies to expand child care quality and supply. Child care advocates are raising funds for after-school and recreational programs for school-age students. Additionally, there were four more child care centers in 2000 than in 1998, and the number of slots in family child care homes rose by more than 30 percent. Two full-day facilities at casinos on Native American reservations serve children of any age and offer programs that promote early education.

A growing Latino population has increased the demand for Spanish-speaking child care providers in Mendocino County. The county Children and Families Commission has supported R&R efforts to recruit Spanish-speaking providers, but more interpreters are needed, as the licensing process can be complex for non-English speakers.

In addition to needing more orientations in Spanish, the county is working to expand funding to increase child development training. "We don't have enough excellent family child care homes to go around, nor enough training for providers," says an R&R staff member. "Training has a significant impact on quality." State funds linked to the Child Care Initiative Project and Proposition 10 have enabled the R&R to offer financial incentives and new training programs to caregivers. As a result, more providers are attending R&R-led training sessions, including a series of workshops taught by specialists from the University of California, Davis and WestEd, a nonprofit education research group.

For more information about child care in Mendocino County, call:

North Coast Opportunities –
Rural Communities Child Care 707-462-1954

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**86,265**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		16,474
Total number of children under 18		22,039
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	29%	6,281
Total number of children ages 6-13		10,160
Total number of children ages 0-5		6,314
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	29%	1,806
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	35%	

Mendocino has the 22nd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	60%	9,861
% of children ages 6-13	66%	6,731
% of children ages 0-5	50%	3,130

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

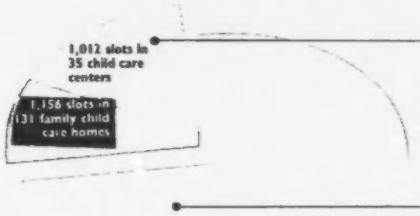
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,727
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	56%
Median annual household income in the county	$34,654
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	35%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,353
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,524
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages, public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Mendocino County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Mendocino County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 2,168 slots

47% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	85% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	10% of center slots

53% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 9,861

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	3,130 children
Ages 6-13	6,731 children

Mendocino County ranks 42nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	22% of calls
Preschool care	48% of calls
School-age care	30% of calls
Family child care homes	93% of calls
Child care centers	21% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	43%
Part-time care	59%
Before- and/or after-school care	9%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	43%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	59%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 12 percent to 22 percent. Six percent of requests were for care to accommodate rotating schedules.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	22%

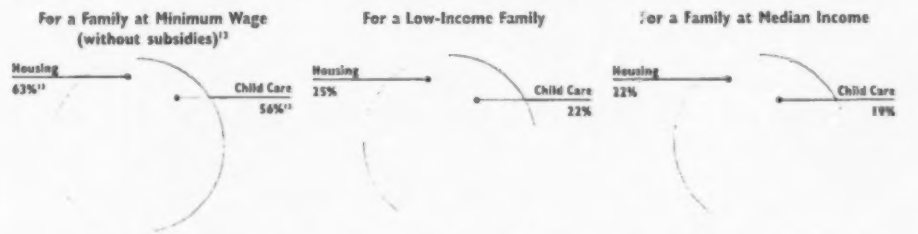
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	31	35	13%
Slots for infants	24	56	133%
Slots: ages 2-5	872	858	-2%
Slots: ages 6 and over	103	98	-5%
Family child care homes	98	131	34%
Slots for all ages[8]	884	1,156	31%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	49%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	51%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	94%
Only full-time available	1%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	37%
Homes with before-/after-school care	85%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	26%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Merced County

"Before we got subsidies to help pay for child care, we struggled for months trying to make ends meet. We even fell behind in our house payments."

–Gloria, who is raising two toddler grandchildren

While subject to the seasonal work cycles of a largely agricultural economy, Merced County's unemployment figures have improved slightly in recent years, though the jobless rate still hovers around twice the state average. An increase in the number of parents employed puts pressure on the child care system, as more working parents need child care. According to staff members at Children's Services Network, the county's resource and referral (R&R) agency, the cost of child care is more than many families can afford. While families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, receive financial assistance to pay for child care, there are insufficient funds for the many other low-income working families who are also eligible, but do not receive subsidies. A waiting list for subsidies is evidence that the cost of child care is a heavy burden for many low-income families.

Care is needed for longer days

Even when money is not the primary issue, parents face significant child care hurdles. Affordable housing in western Merced County has attracted families from Hollister and Gilroy (in San Benito and Monterey counties) who continue to work in the South Bay, despite long commutes. Many of these working parents leave home as early as 4 a.m. and return as late as 8 p.m. Finding child care at these hours remains a constant challenge in a county that sends an estimated 60 percent of its workforce over the county line each day.

After-school programs for children whose parents don't arrive home before they do are scarce and requests for such programs are among the most frequent received by the R&R. "Although slots for school-age children are up," says an R&R staff member, "such care is expensive."

Incentives help attract providers

The R&R has improved the visibility of the child care profession by distributing information at community events, local colleges, social service agencies, clinics, and shopping areas. As a result, parents are more aware of the importance of quality child care, and more child care providers are joining the profession. The R&R has been successful in recruiting new providers and also in retaining veterans in the field by offering technical assistance and stipends for those who continue their formal education in child development.

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**210,554**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		56,488
Total number of children under 18		72,684
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	37%	27,184
Total number of children ages 6-13		33,744
Total number of children ages 0-5		22,744
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	39%	8,756
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	30%	

Merced has the 5th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	50%	28,639
% of children ages 6-13	54%	18,079
% of children ages 0-5	46%	10,560

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,339
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	53%
Median annual household income in the county	$31,298
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	35%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$39,492
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,540
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Merced County, call:

Children's Services Network 209-722-3804

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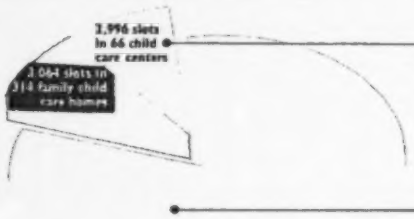
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Merced County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Merced County.



Licensed Child Care Supply =6,060 slots

49% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	85% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	12% of center slots

51% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 28,639

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	10,560 children
Ages 6-13	18,079 children

Merced County ranks 47th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 21% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	28% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	30% of calls
Family child care homes	94% of calls
Child care centers	8% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	78%
Part-time care	24%
Before- and/or after-school care	40%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	86%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	15%

Requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 30 percent in 1998 to 54 percent in 2000. Seven percent of requests were for a provider who could accommodate a rotating schedule.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	54%

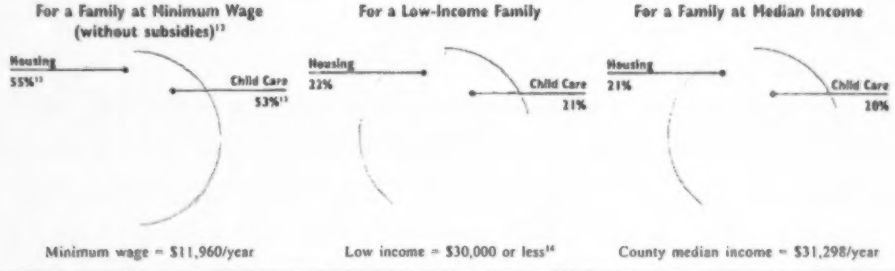
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	55	66	20%
Slots for infants	93	116	25%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,228	2,533	14%
Slots: ages 6 and over	260	347	33%
Family child care homes	288	314	9%
Slots for all ages[8]	2,494	3,064	23%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	48%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	45%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	23%
Homes with before-/after-school care	76%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	49%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentages may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Modoc County

"We're using an unlicensed provider because it's affordable. I'm expecting again, and if our provider raises her rates, I'll have to look elsewhere. Paying for child care for two children is a big chunk of the budget."

–Sheryl, mother of a toddler and a 7-year-old

Located in California's northeastern corner, rural Modoc County suffers an unemployment rate that is almost double the state average. This has caused a number of families (particularly welfare-to-work families approaching a five-year limit on aid) to seek work outside the county. Low-income working families face a dilemma – they have trouble paying for child care on their salaries yet earn too much to qualify for subsidies.

High turnover is hard on families

Turnover in the child care field is very high, due in large part to the low salaries and lack of benefits. When a family child care provider leaves the profession, the families they once served must begin the search for quality care all over again. "Every time we get a new child care provider, we lose one," says a staff member at Modoc Child Care Resource and Referral, the local child care resource and referral (R&R) agency. Demand for child care is especially high in the most rural areas and also in the county seat, Alturas. Weekend and evening care is limited, and parents seeking non-traditional hour care for infants and toddlers are at the greatest disadvantage, since only a few family child care providers in the county provide such care.

Despite the demand for child care workers, many providers look elsewhere for employment. This is in part because the process for becoming licensed in Modoc County is complicated: The closest child care licensing office is six hours away – a trip made longer during winter, when roads are icy. In a county where there is no public transportation, parents, too, are sometimes forced to drive long distances to the nearest child care facility.

Improving the quality of existing care is a major concern for the R&R, which has worked to raise compensation for child care workers through a collaboration with the county Children and Families Commission. The commission is surveying Modoc's child care workers as part of a program that will award providers stipends for training and education. The R&R supplies toys, equipment, and other resources to new family child care providers as they prepare their homes for business. The R&R also administers grants to help providers become licensed and get access to additional training.

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**9,449**
% change in population 1990-2000		-2%
Total number of children under 14		1,766
Total number of children under 18		2,423
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	33%	807
Total number of children ages 6-13		1,097
Total number of children ages 0-5		669
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	33%	223
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		33%

Modoc has the 9th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	54%	958
% of children ages 6-13	59%	652
% of children ages 0-5	46%	306

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$30,221
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	41%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Modoc County, call:

Modoc Child Care R&R 530-233-KIDS

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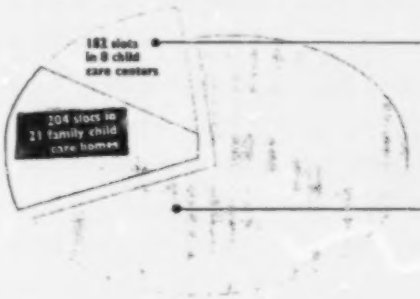
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Modoc County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Modoc County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 386 slots

47% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	66% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	34% of center slots

53% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 958

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	306 children
Ages 6-13	652 children

Modoc County ranks 3rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 40% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 2.5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	7% of calls
Preschool care	41% of calls
School-age care	53% of calls
Family child care homes	53% of calls
Child care centers	2% of calls
In-home care[10]	3% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	67%
Part-time care	33%
Before- and/or after-school care	47%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	58%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	42%

The percent of requests for full-time care increased from 30 percent in 1998 to 67 percent in 2000, while the percent of requests for part-time care fell from 75 percent to 33 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	14%

Licensed Child Care Supply

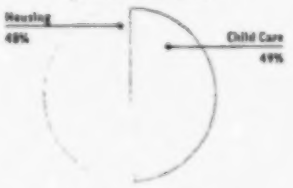
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	8	8	0%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	145	121	-17%
Slots: ages 6 and over	61	61	0%
Family child care homes	25	21	-16%
Slots for all ages[8]	228	204	-11%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	71%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	29%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	75%
Only full-time available	25%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	13%
Homes with before-/after-school care	33%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	38%

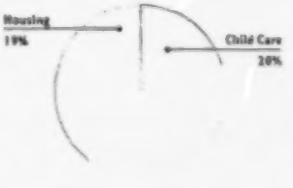
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]



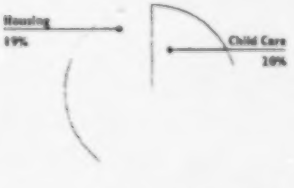
Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $30,221/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentages may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Mono County

"Child care centers have space for only so many kids, especially the programs that offer care during late hours. I work until 11 p.m., so I've been running into problems finding care."

–Debbie, mother of three

Because of strong growth in the tourism industry, Mono County has seen its population escalate by nearly one-third in the past decade. A new ski resort and neighboring hotels and restaurants have drawn hundreds of young families to work in the county since 1999. The tourism industry often requires that employees work rotating shifts as well as evenings and weekends, but care that accommodates these schedules is not always available. The lack of child care options in the county can make it difficult for some parents to hold a job.

Housing prices drive away providers

Although demand for child care is rising, the number of slots in child care centers and homes actually has been declining. Rents have increased, especially in the county seat, Mammoth Lakes, making it more difficult to find an affordable rental that can accommodate the needs of a child care provider to run a family child care home. "Housing costs are driving child care providers out of the area," says a staff member at Community Connection for Children, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. Families with young children have a difficult time paying for both housing and child care expenses, and sometimes the combined cost can exceed $2,000 per month for parents with more than one child.

Infant care is extremely limited throughout the county, and most communities have only a fraction of what is needed by young families wanting to work and find care for their children. Parents complain of spending months searching for a quality child care environment for their newborns and toddlers.

Incentives help recruit new providers

To increase the supply of child care in the county and to recruit new providers from the community, the R&R is using newspaper and radio public service announcements. The R&R also hosts monthly licensing orientations, conducted in English and Spanish. In collaboration with the county Children and Families Commission, Community Connection for Children makes funds available for providers' training costs and licensing fees.

R&R representatives also regularly attend health fairs and offer community workshops to help parents understand the value of and recognize the elements of quality child care.

For more information about child care in Mono County, call:

Community Connection for Children
760-934-3343

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**12,853**
% change in population 1990-2000		29%
Total number of children under 14		2,270
Total number of children under 18		2,953
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	18%	526
Total number of children ages 6-13		1,394
Total number of children ages 0-5		876
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	16%	137
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		19%

Mono has the 49th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	69%	1,614
% of children ages 6-13	79%	1,099
% of children ages 0-5	59%	515

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

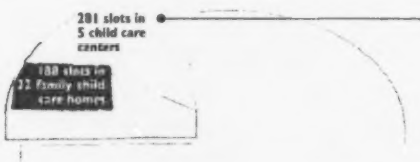
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,975
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	50%
Median annual household income in the county	$38,912
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	28%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$44,787
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$8,952
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2001 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male- and female-headed households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Mono County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Mono County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 469 slots

60% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	12% of center slots
Ages 2-5	66% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	21% of center slots

40% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,614

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	515 children
Ages 6-13	1,099 children

Mono County ranks 17th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 29% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	42% of calls
Preschool care	33% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	45% of calls
Child care centers	7% of calls
In-home care[10]	48% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	90%
Part-time care	10%
Before- and/or after-school care	7%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	86%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	14%

The percent of requests for infant/toddler care increased from 38 percent in 1998 to 42 percent in 2000, while the percent of requests for preschool care declined from 48 percent to 33 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	30%

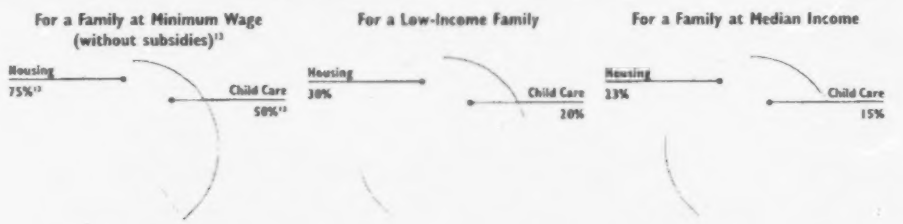
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	6	5	-17%
Slots for infants	58	35	-40%
Slots: ages 2-5	164	186	13%
Slots: ages 6 and over	115	60	-48%
Family child care homes	28	22	-21%
Slots for all ages[8]	194	188	-3%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	91%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	9%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	56%
Homes with before-/after-school care	100%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	22%
In family child care homes	55%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Monterey County

"During my son's first two years, I couldn't afford a licensed child care provider. I know now that it's important from the beginning to research and know who it is that you're taking your child to. I learned the hard way."

–Laura, single mother of a 3-year-old

The high cost of living in Monterey County means that in most families with children both parents or a single parent must work. Traditionally reliant on agriculture and tourism, the county's economy has been transformed in recent years by Silicon Valley expansion. Demand for housing has forced prices up and put additional pressure on the county's child care supply. According to the Monterey County Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R), the total number of licensed child care slots in the county rose a healthy 28 percent from 1998 to 2000, but certain types of care are still very difficult to find. For example, in 2000 just 4 percent of slots in licensed centers were available for infants and toddlers up to 24 months.

Finding affordable child care is also a challenge for many local parents. The Monterey County R&R reports that an increased number of low-income families are requesting child care subsidies, but there are not enough funds to serve all who are eligible. "There are government subsidies for participants in the state's welfare-to-work program," says an R&R staff member, "but other low-income families often can't make ends meet, when child care takes such a bite from their budget." Many low-income parents, particularly those whose work schedules change frequently, turn to relatives, friends, or neighbors for help in caring for their children because such arrangements offer more flexibility.

Outreach helps recruit providers

To increase the amount of care available to the thousands of Spanish-speaking parents working in the county (often in agriculture-related jobs), the R&R has recruited Spanish-speaking child care providers by offering monthly licensing orientations and technical assistance in Spanish. R&R staff also use Spanish-language radio talk shows to answer questions about everything from child development and safety to how to find child care. Recently, the R&R collaborated with

and toddler care to Spanish-speaking providers.

The R&R has also collaborated with the

County, a project of the Appolonia Foundation

Network. Through this program a mobile van

and other dental care.

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**401,762**
% change in population 1990-2000		13%
Total number of children under 14		89,903
Total number of children under 18		114,050
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	24%	27,486
Total number of children ages 6-13		52,126
Total number of children ages 0-5		37,777
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	24%	9,142

Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2] 21%

Monterey has the 29th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	58%	52,929
% of children ages 6-13	64%	33,167
% of children ages 0-5	52%	19,762

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,730
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,060
Care for an infant as % of median income	14%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	26%
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,872
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of elementary school teacher[7]	$42,130

For more information about child care in Monterey County, call:

Monterey County Child Care R&R 831-757-0775

through your local R&R. For state average information, see the first section of the Portfolio.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. Fo[illegible] working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

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Child Care Supply in Monterey County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Monterey County.

Licensed Child Care Supply = 10,768 slots

51% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	81% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	15% of center slots

49% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 52,929

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	19,762 children
Ages 6-13	33,167 children

Monterey County ranks 49th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 20% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	33% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	24% of calls
Family child care homes	91% of calls
Child care centers	10% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	54%
Part-time care	46%
Before- and/or after-school care	17%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	63%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	37%

Requests for family child care increased from 79 percent in 1998 to 91 percent in 2000. Seven percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	8%

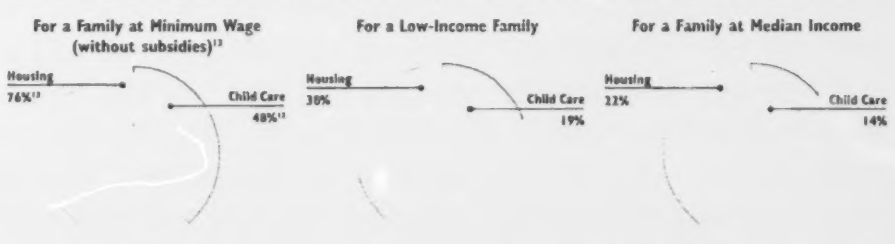
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	118	130	10%
Slots for infants	255	228	-11%
Slots: ages 2-5	4,240	4,391	4%
Slots: ages 6 and over	650	825	27%
Family child care homes	380	538	42%
Slots for all ages[8]	3,296	5,324	62%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	54%
Only full-time available	16%
Only part-time available	30%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	89%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	27%
Homes with before-/after-school care	84%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	41%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



Minimum wage = $11,960/year | Low income = $30,000 or less[14] | County median income = $41,127/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Napa County

"I'm paying $1,100 for a two-bedroom apartment and about $800 a month for before- and after-school care for my two children. It's a big expense, but if you find good child care, it's worth it."

–Stacee, single mother of two

In Napa County, growth in the wine and tourism industries has put pressure on the real estate market, and family child care providers find that landlords are often reluctant to rent to them. "We had one provider who had been caring for children for 11 years in a rental home. When the house sold, her new apartment wasn't suitable for child care. So she lost her business, and the child care community lost a seasoned, well-trained provider," says a staff member at Community Resources for Children, the local child care resource and referral (R&R) agency. In 2000, some family child care providers were forced to raise their rates to cover increases in their energy bills, further cutting the supply of affordable, quality care in Napa.

Staffing shortage hurts supply

A shortage of qualified staff has reduced the number of children who can be served at many centers. A therapeutic child care center opened early in 2001. It is for the children of parents who are in substance abuse and mental health programs and is believed to be the first of its kind nationwide. But difficulty recruiting child care workers has prevented the center from operating at full capacity.

Because the tourism, service, and wine industries provide the majority of jobs in the county, demand for care that is available for rotating shifts and during non-traditional hours, such as evenings and weekends, is high. This has been particularly true since the opening of a Wal-Mart in Napa, according to an R&R counselor. The introduction of any large company or retail establishment offers jobs for residents but also strains the local child care system, creating new demand, sometimes without adequate planning.

Community Resources for Children collaborates with other agencies, such as Calistoga's family resource center, to help parents find child care throughout the county. Together with the local child care planning council, the R&R is raising businesses' awareness of their employees' child care needs and is embarking on a public information campaign. Through a partnership with Matrix, a resource center for families with children with special needs, and the Napa County Office of Education, the R&R houses a staff person who works with parents and providers to increase the supply and accessibility of care for children with special needs.

Child care providers have been seeking more child development training and attending workshops. "I'm amazed at the commitment providers have shown," says an R&R staff member. "They find time to participate in workshops and attend trainings even after working long days."

For more information about child care in Napa County, call:

Community Resources for Children
707-253-0376

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**124,279**
% change in population 1990-2000		12%
Total number of children under 14		23,039
Total number of children under 18		29,998
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	14%	4,320
Total number of children ages 6-13		13,841
Total number of children ages 0-5		9,198
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	15%	1,407
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		22%

Napa has the 50th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	62%	14,330
% of children ages 6-13	68%	9,369
% of children ages 0-5	54%	4,961

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,272
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	61%
Median annual household income in the county	$47,913
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	27%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$48,504
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,648
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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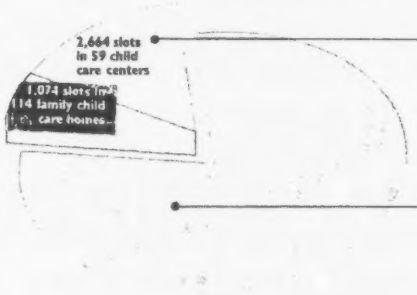
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Napa County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Napa County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 3,738 slots

71% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	72% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	24% of center slots

29% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 14,330

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	4,961 children
Ages 6-13	9,369 children

Napa County ranks 31st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	86% of calls
Child care centers	80% of calls
In-home care[10]	25% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	62%
Part-time care	38%
Before- and/or after-school care	5%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	65%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	35%

Between 1998 and 2000, the percent of requests for full-time care rose from 49 percent to 62 percent, while requests for part-time care fell from 51 percent to 38 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	4%

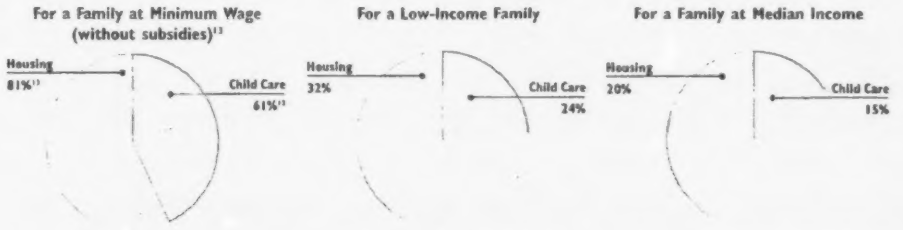
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	58	59	2%
Slots for infants	107	109	2%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,736	1,921	11%
Slots: ages 6 and over	535	634	19%
Family child care homes	129	114	-12%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,094	1,074	-2%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	85%
Only full-time available	3%
Only part-time available	12%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	88%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	43%
Homes with before-/after-school care	62%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	13%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Nevada County

"For a single mom like me, finding reliable, economical child care is tough. You are usually on a waiting list for a long time."

–Jodi, mother of two

Rural, mountainous Nevada County is made up of several small communities, isolated from one another by distance and, at times, icy roads. This presents a challenge for parents and child care providers trying to coordinate schedules. Working parents battle transportation problems, especially when their children need to get from school to an after-school program. A near-doubling in the Latino population over the last decade and child care shortages in rural areas have increased the demand for Spanish-speaking providers, as well as for providers to serve small, isolated communities. Child care in the southern part of the county is especially limited.

Higher housing costs affect families

The influx of retirees to the county has contributed to rising housing costs. For low-income families, it is a struggle to pay for both housing and child care, which, when combined, take up a huge part of the family income. About 300 low-income families are on the county's waiting list for child care subsidies; although they are eligible for these subsidies, there currently are not enough funds for these families to receive them.

While families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, receive financial assistance to pay for child care, many low-income families do not have access to subsidies. They often ask relatives, friends, and neighbors to care for their children, but according to Sierra Nevada Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, turnover is high among such caregivers.

R&R staff members are pleased to report that attendance at quality improvement workshops for providers is up. Also, enrollment in early childhood education classes is up at local colleges, thanks in part to a new program, sponsored jointly by the county Children and Families Commission, that offers stipends and benefits for caregivers who broaden their skills through training. Another popular addition has been the R&R's "How to Succeed" workshops, which teach providers small-business skills, including marketing and accounting. "We found that the lack of business knowledge contributed to turnover," explains an R&R staff member. "Business training is something that has been missing in the child development field."

For more information about child care in Nevada County, call:

Sierra Nevada Children's Services
530-272-8866

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**92,033**
% change in population 1990-2000		17%
Total number of children under 14		15,557
Total number of children under 18		21,277
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	15%	3,255
Total number of children ages 6-13		10,235
Total number of children ages 0-5		5,322
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	17%	878
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	24%	

Nevada has the 48th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	61%	9,500
% of children ages 6-13	65%	6,661
% of children ages 0-5	53%	2,839

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,453
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	54%
Median annual household income in the county	$43,279
Care for an infant as % of median income	15%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	26%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$45,955
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$8,388
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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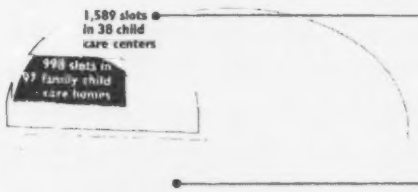
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Nevada County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Nevada County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 2,587 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	56% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	40% of center slots

39% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 9,500

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	2,839 children
Ages 6-13	6,661 children

Nevada County ranks 23rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 27% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	94% of calls
Child care centers	88% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	61%
Part-time care	40%
Before- and/or after-school care	5%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	59%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	41%

Requests for care in child care centers jumped from 38 percent in 1998 to 88 percent in 2000. During that time, requests for full-time care increased to 61 percent from 50 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	21%

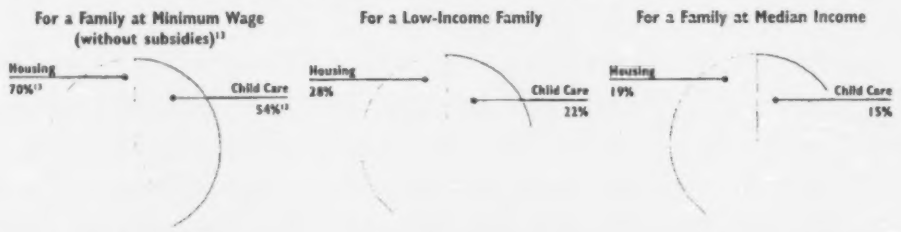
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	**1998**	**2000**	**Change**
Child care centers	37	38	3%
Slots for infants	44	66	50%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,060	892	-16%
Slots: ages 6 and over	507	631	24%
Family child care homes	113	97	-14%
Slots for all ages[8]	964	998	4%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	80%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	20%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	83%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	80%
Homes with before-/after-school care	66%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	14%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Orange County

"Sometimes it feels like what a person pays for child care is a lot of money and you can't always afford it, but then you need someone to watch your kids and you want that provider to be well-trained and caring."

–Curtis, single father of two boys, ages 9 and 10

The jammed highways that criss-cross Orange County reveal one thing: long commutes for parents to get to work and to child care. The result is a need for child care that is open early in the morning and late into the evening and is also close to home or work. Large families often seek caregivers who have space available for children of various ages to avoid having to drive to more than one site for child care. Finding certain types of child care can be particularly difficult: For example, although the number of slots for infants and toddlers in licensed centers has been increasing, there is still not enough supply to meet the demand.

To bring this picture into focus, Children's Home Society of California (CHS), the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, is part of a study funded by the Children and Families Commission to assess the area's overall child care needs and the particular desires of parents. The R&R is finding that for many parents, the greatest need is for financial assistance to pay for licensed care, which has become increasingly expensive in recent years. This is particularly true since CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, has brought people into the workforce who traditionally might have stayed home to care for children. "There was a myth that family members are available to care for children," says an R&R staff member, "but now grandmothers are going to work as well." While CalWORKs families have access to child care subsidies, many other low-income families find there are long waiting lists for assistance.

There is high demand for providers who speak Vietnamese and Spanish to serve the county's ethnically and linguistically diverse families. To meet this need, the R&R has begun offering conferences and workshops for parents and providers in three languages.

Work shifts make finding care difficult

More than 47 percent of Orange County's jobs are in services and retail, where rotating schedules are the norm and families must structure their lives to accommodate them. As employers tailor schedules to meet their productivity needs, many families can no longer plan around a traditional work week. Parents find it difficult to find licensed child care providers with the flexibility to accommodate rotating shifts and short-notice changes in scheduling. Add to that the growing trend in service and retail industries to operate 24-hours, seven days a week, and it's no surprise that many families turn to relatives or friends (license-exempt providers) who might be willing to offer more flexible schedules.

For more information about child care in Orange County, call:

Children's Home Society of California
714-835-8252

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**2,846,289**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		613,339
Total number of children under 18		768,419
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	17%	133,705
Total number of children ages 6-13		351,110
Total number of children ages 0-5		262,229
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	20%	51,135
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		17%

Orange has the 38th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	363,702
% of children ages 6-13	63%	219,930
% of children ages 0-5	55%	143,772

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

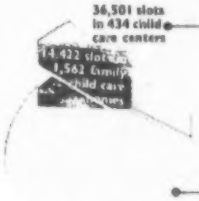
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$9,115
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	76%
Median annual household income in the county	$53,186
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$53,691
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$10,692
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Orange County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Orange County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 50,923 slots

72% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	73% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	22% of center slots

28% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 363,702

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	143,772 children
Ages 6-13	219,930 children

Orange County ranks last among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 14% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 7.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	42% of calls
Preschool care	39% of calls
School-age care	19% of calls
Family child care homes	76% of calls
Child care centers	71% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	73%
Part-time care	30%
Before- and/or after-school care	13%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	77%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	24%

The percent of requests for infant/toddler care increased from 38 percent in 1998 to 42 percent in 2000. The percent of requests for care in centers fell slightly from 1998 to 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

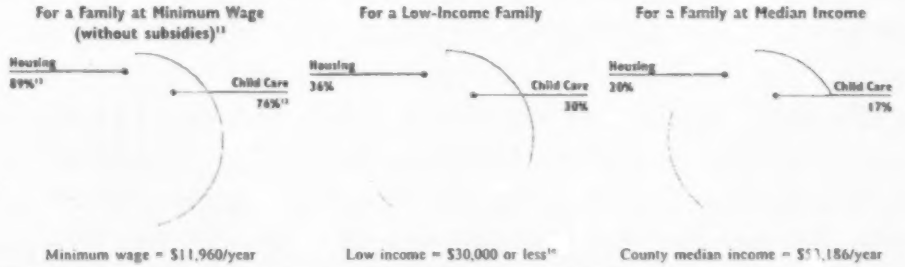
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	478	434	-9%
Slots for infants	1,658	1,956	18%
Slots: ages 2-5	29,280	26,478	-10%
Slots: ages 6 and over	8,184	8,067	-1%
Family child care homes	1,494	1,562	5%
Slots for all ages[8]	11,680	14,422	23%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	82%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	13%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	82%
Only full-time available	16%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	46%
Homes with before-/after-school care	53%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	25%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Placer County

"I earn enough to pay for rent and day care, and my wife earns enough to pay for the food. I don't know how my grandfather worked and supported eight kids while my grandmother stayed home. Not even a doctor could afford that today."

–Herbert, married father of a 3-year-old son

With a 44 percent population increase from 1990 to 2000, Placer is one of the state's fastest-growing counties. Job growth in manufacturing and other industries has brought many working parents to the area, increasing the need for child care. At the same time, California's welfare-to-work program, CalWORKs, has also accelerated child care demand. Although the supply has grown – the number of infant slots in licensed child care centers more than doubled from 1998 to 2000, and there was a 20 percent increase in the number of slots in family child care homes – it is not keeping up with demand.

Recruiting new providers is a top priority for Child Care Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency housed within the county Office of Education. To address the need for more providers, the R&R is collaborating with other county agencies to boost the number of Spanish-speaking providers and providers who serve children with special needs.

Costs and scheduling are obstacles

For those families who locate the child care they want, affording it can become a second challenge. Only a limited amount of government subsidies are available for parents who find that the cost of child care rivals what they spend on housing. Many low-income parents are employed in jobs that require rotating shifts and work during weekends and evenings, when child care availability is extremely low and when options are minimal. Employees whose work schedules change weekly find it particularly difficult to find care to meet their schedules. Staff members at Child Care Services are working to raise employers' awareness of this issue by explaining that many of their employees face difficult challenges as they try to balance parenthood and work. The R&R is also trying to recruit family child care providers who live near schools and in low-income neighborhoods, in order to reduce the need for transportation from schools to off-site before- and after-school programs.

Parents seek high-quality preschools

In neighborhoods close to Sacramento, there is increasing demand for child care programs that prepare young children for school. To meet this need, the R&R provides a variety of workshops, including a series co-sponsored by the Placer County Child Care Association. "Some parents are asking for an academically challenging program for children as young as three years old," says an R&R staff member. "This push has made family child care providers and center-based staff aware of the benefits parents see in early education training."

For more information about child care in Placer County, call:

Placer County Office of Education –
Child Care Services 530-886-4956

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**248,399**
% change in population 1990-2000		44%
Total number of children under 14		50,497
Total number of children under 18		65,758
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	11%	7,233
Total number of children ages 6-13		31,003
Total number of children ages 0-5		19,494
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	11%	2,066
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		17%

Placer has the 55th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	30,168
% of children ages 6-13	64%	19,910
% of children ages 0-5	53%	10,258

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,457
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	71%
Median annual household income in the county	$53,245
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	26%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$44,827
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,572
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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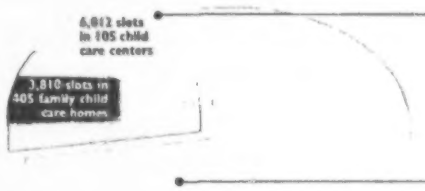
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Placer County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Placer County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 9,822 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	57% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	38% of center slots

39% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 30,168

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	10,258 children
Ages 6-13	19,910 children

Placer County ranks 8th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 33% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	38% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	20% of calls
Family child care homes	82% of calls
Child care centers	19% of calls
In-home care[10]	8% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	52%
Part-time care	49%
Before- and/or after-school care	13%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	58%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	43%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for full-time care for children under six fell from 66 to 58 percent, while requests for part-time care rose from 35 percent in 1998 to 43 percent in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	8%

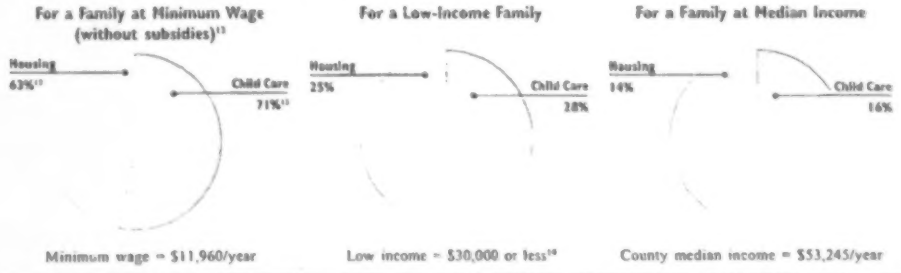
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	92	105	14%
Slots for infants	127	256	102%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,908	3,446	19%
Slots: ages 6 and over	2,079	2,310	11%
Family child care homes	355	405	14%
Slots for all ages[8]	3,168	3,810	20%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	0%
Only full-time available	65%
Only part-time available	35%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	0%
Only full-time available	98%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	40%
Homes with before-/after-school care	59%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	26%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000 a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Plumas County

"Everyone I know who has kids has trouble finding child care, especially for babies. Many of my friends have infants, and it is next to impossible to find care for babies. But even people with 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds can't find child care."

–Rachel, mother of a 5-month-old daughter

The rural communities of Plumas County have had to face a faltering economy due to the closure of many timber-based businesses. This has prompted some residents, including several child care workers, to relocate to other communities. Although the number of young children in the county has declined, there continues to be insufficient child care to meet demand. "The average length of time providers stay in the field is just over two years," says a staff member at Plumas Rural Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "Some leave the area, and others take another job within the county. Unfortunately, we have recently lost some providers who were in the business for a long time, and it is becoming more difficult to find people who are interested in going into the child care profession."

Licensed care is out of reach

Most licensed child care in the county is already at full capacity, and weekend and evening care is even more limited because the majority of licensed providers offer care only during regular working hours. That presents a hardship for parents who work in the tourism industry or for the Forest Service, two major employers in the county, since those jobs often require evening, weekend, and early morning hours. Many families turn to friends and relatives when they are unable to find licensed care that accommodates their work schedules. But even license-exempt care is hard to find.

Reducing provider turnover is important

Because of high turnover rates, the efforts to identify new providers and retain veteran child care professionals is an ongoing task. Plumas Rural Services hosts licensing orientations on demand and provides regularly scheduled training workshops for those who are new to the field. New funding from the county Children and Families Commission is expected to bolster support for recruitment and retention by providing stipends for child care workers who obtain additional education.

Plumas County child care providers are also organizing, having recently formed an association that counts nearly 70 percent of local providers among its members. "Having the association is helping with retention," says an R&R staff member. "It's a support group for providers that will help them advocate for what they need."

For more information about child care in Plumas County, call:

Plumas Rural Services 530-283-4453

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**20,824**
% change in population 1990-2000		5%
Total number of children under 14		3,408
Total number of children under 18		4,727
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	20%	950
Total number of children ages 6-13		2,264
Total number of children ages 0-5		1,144
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	18%	201
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	39%	

Plumas has the 46th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	58%	1,999
% of children ages 6-13	64%	1,449
% of children ages 0-5	48%	550

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$37,709
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	28%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Plumas County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Plumas County.

Licensed Child Care Supply = 610 slots

30% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	100% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	0% of center slots

70% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,999

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	550 children
Ages 6-13	1,449 children

Plumas County ranks 13th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 31% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	25% of calls
Preschool care	45% of calls
School-age care	30% of calls
Family child care homes	97% of calls
Child care centers	61% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	56%
Part-time care	54%
Before- and/or after-school care	4%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	53%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	52%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for part-time care fell from 66 to 54 percent. Requests for before- and after-school care also decreased from 17 percent to 4 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	17%

Licensed Child Care Supply

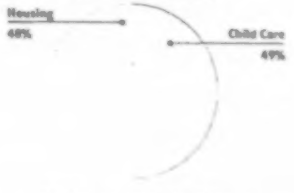
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	7	8	14%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	171	186	9%
Slots: ages 6 and over	0	0	0%
Family child care homes	41	41	0%
Slots for all ages[8]	422	424	0%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	29%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	71%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	91%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	8%
Homes with before-/after-school care	90%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	29%

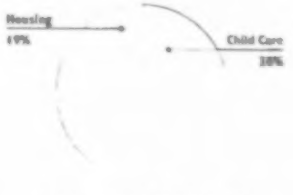
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]



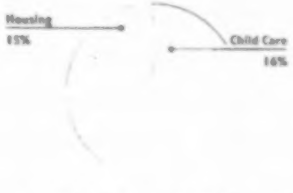
Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $37,709/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Riverside County

"I was seven months pregnant when the child care provider who cared for my kids stopped taking infants. I was really upset. Someone suggested that mothers should stay home with their children until they are 18 months old. But that doesn't take into consideration parents like me who are raising their children alone, or the cost of living in this county."

–Vanessa, mother of three young children

One of the fastest-growing counties in California, Riverside County has experienced an astounding 32 percent population growth in 10 years, more than doubling the state's growth rate. In the Coachella Valley and other farming and tourism areas, agricultural and service workers struggle to find child care that is affordable and flexible – available seasonally and during weekend and evening hours, when many jobs require employees to work. Riverside County has had an influx of young, commuting families who have created additional demand for child care. And, despite an increase in the number of slots for infants at licensed centers, a persistent shortage of infant care causes some babies to remain on waiting lists so long that by the time space becomes available, these children are in preschool. In the interim, many parents turn to license-exempt care provided by relatives, friends, or neighbors.

Child care costs are increasing

Staff members of Children's Services Unit Resource and Referral (R&R) are concerned about the escalating costs of child care. Low-income families who have never received subsidies continue to struggle with ever-greater financial burdens, including paying for child care. Families remain for years on long waiting lists for subsidized care. Many of the state-subsidized child care centers operated by school districts have closed their doors because of the high cost of doing business and the low rates at which the state reimburses them. Parents in CalWORKs, the welfare-to-work program, often choose license-exempt caregivers instead of licensed child care facilities. "The state does not regulate license-exempt providers, and there are limited opportunities to provide training and outreach to these providers," says an R&R staff member.

Partnerships increase services for families

A grant from the Children and Families Commission is helping to create additional subsidized slots for children of low-income families in family child care homes. Community Care Licensing and Children's Services Unit have worked with the Board of Supervisors to simplify zoning regulations that affect where child care facilities may be located. These and other efforts boosted the number of family child care homes by 28 percent from 1998 to 2000. Children's Services Unit is also enabling local child care associations to enhance their training and mentor programs and technical assistance to support and retain veteran child care providers.

For more information about child care in Riverside County, call:

Riverside County Office of Education–
Children's Services Unit
909-826-6178

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,545,387**
% change in population 1990-2000		32%
Total number of children under 14		369,211
Total number of children under 18		468,691
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	23%	106,393
Total number of children ages 6-13		220,568
Total number of children ages 0-5		148,643
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	24%	35,526
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		26%

Riverside has the 31st highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	54%	201,012
% of children ages 6-13	58%	128,900
% of children ages 0-5	49%	72,112

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

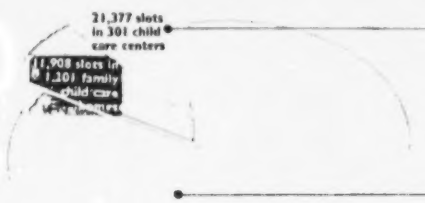
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,473
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	62%
Median annual household income in the county	$39,011
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	33%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$43,324
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,308
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the 5th edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county or publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages, public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Riverside County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Riverside County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 33,285 slots

64% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	72% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	23% of center slots

36% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 201,012

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	72,112 children
Ages 6-13	128,900 children

Riverside County ranks 55th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 17% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	29% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	29% of calls
Family child care homes	90% of calls
Child care centers	85% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	85%
Part-time care	16%
Before- and/or after-school care	25%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	85%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	16%

Requests for family child care jumped from 64 to 90 percent between 1998 and 2000, while requests for full-time care increased from 68 to 85 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	8%

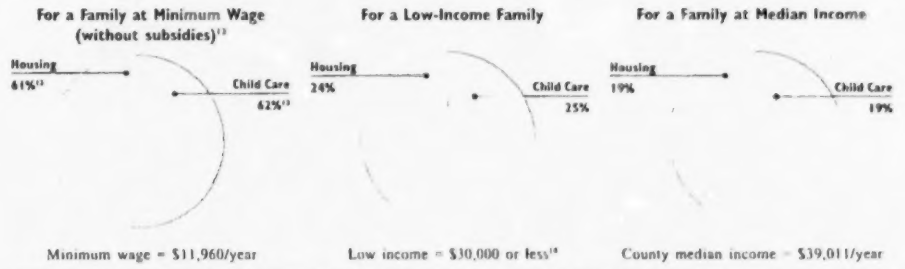
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	302	301	0%
Slots for infants	864	1,078	25%
Slots: ages 2-5	15,543	15,343	-1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	4,224	4,956	17%
Family child care homes	940	1,201	28%
Slots for all ages[8]	8,342	11,908	43%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	65%
Only full-time available	21%
Only part-time available	13%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	59%
Only full-time available	39%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	46%
Homes with before-/after-school care	77%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	4%
In family child care homes	26%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Sacramento County

"When I asked about financial assistance, I was told there were 2,500 families ahead of me. To get financial help, I would have had to be in the CalWORKs program and sign up for food stamps. I didn't want that. It seems to me that if you qualify income-wise, you should be able to get assistance to pay for child care."

–April, mother of two school-age children

Rapid economic expansion has spurred substantial increases in Sacramento County's population and cost of living that outpace California as a whole. At a time when more working families need quality child care, there has been an 18 percent drop in family child care homes in the county from 1998 to 2000, as well as a 2 percent decline in licensed slots overall. According to Child Action, Inc., the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, this is due to both the expense of running a family child care home and the availability of other higher paying jobs. An informal survey, conducted by the agency, found that more than half of providers leaving the field did so to pursue other careers. "Providers are leaving family child care for other professions," says an R&R manager.

Licensed care is costly

Parents, burdened with high housing costs, have trouble affording child care. Some parents complain that without affordable child care they cannot keep a job or afford to live in Sacramento County. The R&R estimates that 60 percent of parents who contact the agency are worried about the cost of care. With a shortage of subsidies available for families who are not in the state's welfare-to-work program, many working parents have limited child care options.

More diverse provider pool is needed

In a county where an estimated 75,000 Eastern European immigrants reside along with many more from Latin America, Vietnam, and elsewhere, the child care field and the R&R have been challenged to diversify the provider pool. Child Action has worked hard to increase the number of Russian-, Spanish-, and Hmong-speaking child care workers in the county. The supply of school-age care and youth development programs also has expanded, with growing community support and awareness of these programs. The R&R has partnered with local community colleges to provide job-skill training for CalWORKs participants interested in pursuing child care as a profession. Child Action has also received funding from the state and the Children and Families Commission to create incentives for providers to pursue their credentials and for facilities to expand.

The R&R and local family resource centers have made information about child care available to parents throughout the county. Representatives of social service agencies and family resource centers visit new mothers at home and bring information about child care to new parents. With a high percentage of families placing infants in child care, information about choosing care has become critical.

For more information about child care in Sacramento County, call:

Child Action, Inc. 916-369-0191

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,223,499**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		264,685
Total number of children under 18		337,602
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	92,165
Total number of children ages 6-13		156,630
Total number of children ages 0-5		108,055
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	30%	32,308
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	31%	

Sacramento has the 16th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	56%	149,523
% of children ages 6-13	61%	95,242
% of children ages 0-5	50%	54,281

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,239
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	69%
Median annual household income in the county	$42,329
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	33%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$44,854
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,572
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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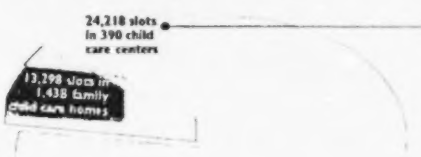
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Sacramento County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Sacramento County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 37,516 slots

65% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	71% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	23% of center slots

35% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 149,523

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	54,281 children
Ages 6-13	95,242 children

Sacramento County ranks 36th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 25% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	40% of calls
School-age care	29% of calls
Family child care homes	90% of calls
Child care centers	71% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	63%
Part-time care	38%
Before- and/or after-school care	23%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	76%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	24%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for center-based care rose to 71 percent from 59 percent. Requests for before- and after-school care declined by 6 percentage points.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	10%

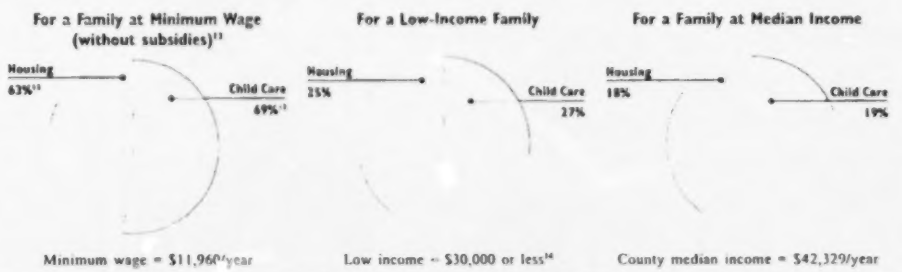
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	381	390	2%
Slots for infants	1,512	1,508	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	17,481	17,101	-2%
Slots: ages 6 and over	5,080	5,609	10%
Family child care homes	1,755	1,438	-18%
Slots for all ages[8]	14,057	13,298	-5%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	76%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	19%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	50%
Homes with before-/after-school care	79%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	28%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Benito County

"I was new to the county and didn't have friends who could give me child care advice. The R&R and social services did a good job of helping me find child care when I needed it."

–Wendy, working mother of an infant

Close proximity to Silicon Valley has spurred population growth and escalated housing costs in San Benito County. But commutes to Silicon Valley make workdays longer, exacerbating the need for extended-hour child care early in the morning and in the late evening. The high price of housing also increases demand for child care, as two-parent families and single parents paying mortgages or high rents cannot afford to stay home and care for their children. Because San Benito real estate has appreciated quickly, many child care providers have had to raise their rates to cover their own housing costs, making child care less affordable for the families they serve.

More care for young children is needed

Since child care workers must maintain a higher ratio of staff to children when they care for infants and toddlers, this care is harder to find and more costly than child care for preschoolers. "We have tried to build the supply of child care providers, but it is still difficult and expensive for families to place infants in licensed care," says a director with GoKids Inc., the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. On the bright side, a community development block grant issued by the State Department of Housing and Community Development will soon be applied to the construction of a new child care center.

Child care subsidies are in short supply

Many low-income families are on waiting lists for subsidies to help them pay for child care. At the same time, very few subsidized slots are available, and even fewer are earmarked for children under the age of two. The majority of San Benito County families participating in CalWORKs, the state welfare-to-work program, rely on license-exempt child care because it is often more accessible and flexible than licensed care. GoKids offers health, safety, and child development training to license-exempt caregivers and helps them become licensed.

To help meet the demand for quality child care in San Benito County, the R&R has recruited new providers by working with them to make necessary changes to their homes and to complete license applications. Although training offered in English and Spanish has helped to bring dozens more family child care providers into the profession, the number of family child care homes in the county has only increased slightly. Many providers close down each year, discouraged by the challenges of working long hours for low pay and no benefits.

For more information about child care in San Benito County, call:

GoKids, Inc. 831-637-9205

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**53,234**
% change in population 1990-2000		45%
Total number of children under 14		13,558
Total number of children under 18		17,143
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	18%	3,069
Total number of children ages 6-13		7,871
Total number of children ages 0-5		5,687
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	18%	1,018
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		19%

San Benito has the 44th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	62%	8,375
% of children ages 6-13	65%	5,150
% of children ages 0-5	57%	3,225

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,002
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	67%
Median annual household income in the county	$45,672
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$47,198
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,324
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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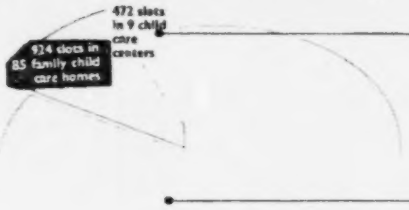
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in San Benito County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Benito County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,396 slots

34% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	65% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	29% of center slots

66% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 8,375

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	3,225 children
Ages 6-13	5,150 children

San Benito County ranks 54th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 17% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	17% of calls
Preschool care	59% of calls
School-age care	24% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	43% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	62%
Part-time care	38%
Before- and/or after-school care	7%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	73%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	27%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for infant/toddler care fell from 26 to 17 percent. In 2000, 20 percent of callers requested Spanish-speaking providers.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	0%

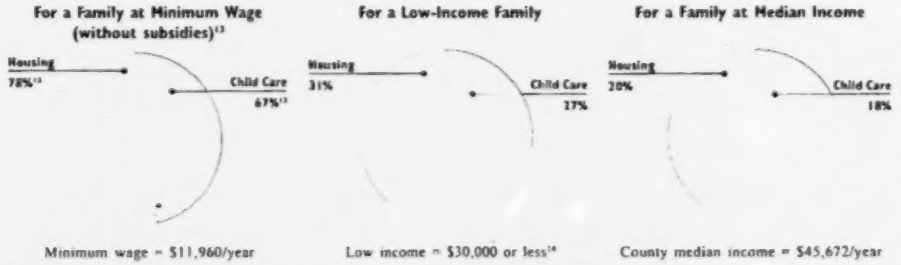
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	12	9	-25%
Slots for infants	64	28	-56%
Slots: ages 2-5	307	306	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	57	138	142%
Family child care homes	83	85	2%
Slots for all ages[8]	792	924	17%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	83%
Only full-time available	4%
Only part-time available	12%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	96%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	44%
Homes with before-/after-school care	84%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	11%
In family child care homes	47%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Bernardino County

"Here in the high desert, parents of children with special needs need care that we can trust. We need providers who are trained to take care of our children. But there are very few options."

–Cristina, mother of an autistic kindergartner and a preschooler

Covering 20,000 square miles, San Bernardino is the nation's largest county in terms of area. From city to desert to mountains, child care needs and supply vary widely. In some areas, child care providers have too many vacant slots, while elsewhere families are unable to find licensed care. But, as researchers project county population growth at 60 percent over the next two decades, more child care clearly will be needed throughout vast San Bernardino.

Many parents, especially those participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, have found entry-level jobs that require working rotating shifts, as well as weekends and nights. But few child care facilities are open during those hours, so many parents turn to family and friends to help them care for their children. Without these arrangements, many parents would find it difficult to maintain their jobs. Despite gains in the number of infant slots available at licensed child care centers, supply has not kept up with demand, and care for children under two years old and for children with special needs can be difficult to find, especially in remote areas of the county.

New providers increase families' options

Child Development Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, has been successful in creating an intensive training program to recruit new child care providers. From 1998 to 2000, slots in family child care homes increased 27 percent. Provider retention is also a top priority, and thanks to grants from the county Children and Families Commission and other entities, stipends are available for providers who want to further their education. Family child care providers can take credit-bearing classes at the R&R, through a collaboration with San Bernardino Valley College. Because of these partnerships, R&R staff members say, child care retention and capacity in the county has grown.

To educate parents about choosing quality care, R&R staff members attend childbirth classes at local hospitals, give out brochures at community fairs, and partner with schools and business groups. At a time when parents are increasingly aware of the importance of early education, the R&R recently developed a "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" brochure outlining school-readiness skills.

Online referrals also are available for parents on the R&R's new Web site, Kidsncare.com. "We wanted to be more effective in reaching a greater percentage of the population who needs child care," an R&R staff member says.

For more information about child care in San Bernardino County, call:

San Bernardino County Schools –
Child Development Services 909-384-1492
High Desert Office 760-245-0770

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,709,434**
% change in population 1990-2000		21%
Total number of children under 14		435,162
Total number of children under 18		552,047
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	26%	141,876
Total number of children ages 6-13		260,855
Total number of children ages 0-5		174,307
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	28%	49,503
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	29%	

San Bernardino has the 23rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	51%	225,865
% of children ages 6-13	56%	146,827
% of children ages 0-5	45%	79,038

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,246
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	61%
Median annual household income in the county	$39,556
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$43,070
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,308
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio*. ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in San Bernardino County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Bernardino County.

Licensed Child Care Supply = 34,173 slots

66% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	5% of center slots
Ages 2-5	67% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	28% of center slots

34% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 225,865

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	79,038 children
Ages 6-13	146,827 children

San Bernardino County ranks 57th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 15% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 6.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	25% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	33% of calls
Family child care homes	86% of calls
Child care centers	75% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	66%
Part-time care	34%
Before- and/or after-school care	28%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	80%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	20%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 72 to 80 percent between 1998 and 2000, while requests for part-time care for children under six dropped from 28 to 20 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	13%

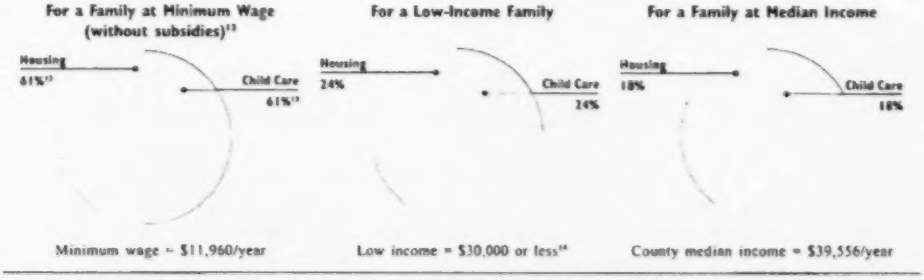
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	287	290	1%
Slots for infants	910	1,054	16%
Slots: ages 2-5	14,918	15,148	2%
Slots: ages 6 and over	6,252	6,457	3%
Family child care homes	1,018	1,156	14%
Slots for all ages[8]	9,046	11,514	27%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	92%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	8%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	59%
Homes with before-/after-school care	84%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	6%
In family child care homes	31%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
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14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Diego County

"To put just one of my children in the day care provided by my employer, it would cost $600 per month. For school-age care, it would be $400. With five children, I would basically be working just to pay for child care."

–Dingiswayo, mother of five

With a high percentage of two-income households and a growing number of young families in San Diego County, the difficulty finding quality, affordable child care is becoming an urgent problem. Despite an increase in the number of infant slots at licensed centers since 1998, supply is not sufficient to meet demand. Many parents return to their jobs within several weeks of a baby's birth. This is especially true of low-income, welfare-to-work, and military parents. A staffing shortage at child care centers, brought on in part by low wages, has made licensed infant care very difficult to find, and it is also financially out of reach for many families. Heightened awareness of a shortage of school-age care has resulted in the new "6 to 6" program piloted at San Diego public schools. Offering on-site child care from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the program addresses the need for school-age care, especially for low-income families. But many families still struggle to find safe, stimulating environments for their children.

Improving quality is a priority

The local resource and referral (R&R) agency, YMCA Childcare Resource Service, is working with local government agencies to meet families' needs. "All the work collaborating with social services agencies, especially since welfare reform, has resulted in improvements in the quality of child care in our community," says an R&R staff member. More training and funding has been made available to expand the supply of child care, particularly in family child care homes.

Through local funding, the R&R has added a number of new services that support parents and caregivers. An "urgent child care service" links low-income parents and licensed centers and homes with back-up child care providers who can offer services during emergencies, such as when children are sick but their parents must report to work or when a regular provider requires a substitute. Another program provides specialists who are available on hotlines and for site visits to help families and providers. Health consultants help providers address safety and health issues in their facilities, at no charge to the licensed or license-exempt caregiver. Similarly, a behavior health specialist assesses the environment of children with challenging behaviors and creates an action plan to help staff address the behavior. "When children have behavior problems, it's frustrating for the child, the provider, and the parent," explains an R&R staff member. "By addressing behavior directly, we are helping to keep these children in stable child care and to support the provider with solutions."

For more information about child care in San Diego County, call:

YMCA Childcare Resource Service 619-521-3055

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**2,813,833**
% change in population 1990-2000		13%
Total number of children under 14		573,420
Total number of children under 18		723,661
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	22%	159,205
Total number of children ages 6-13		332,995
Total number of children ages 0-5		240,425
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	24%	57,702
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	22%	

San Diego has the 30th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	56%	325,776
% of children ages 6-13	61%	202,367
% of children ages 0-5	51%	123,409

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,470
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	71%
Median annual household income in the county	$42,292
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	33%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$49,670
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,660
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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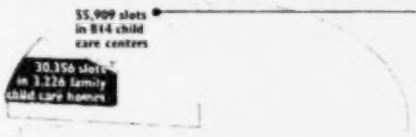
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in San Diego County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Diego County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 86,265 slots

65% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	71% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	25% of center slots

35% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 325,776

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	123,409 children
Ages 6-13	202,367 children

San Diego County ranks 25th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	38% of calls
Preschool care	40% of calls
School-age care	23% of calls
Family child care homes	70% of calls
Child care centers	46% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	72%
Part-time care	34%
Before- and/or after-school care	14%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	79%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	26%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 73 percent in 1998 to 79 percent in 2000, while requests for part-time care for children under six decreased from 35 percent to 26 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

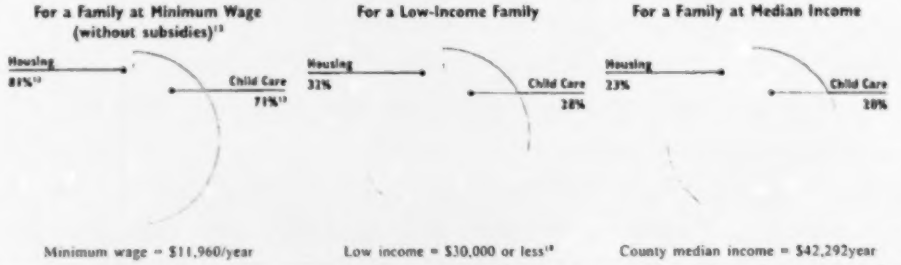
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	805	814	1%
Slots for infants	1,756	2,065	18%
Slots: ages 2-5	37,704	39,815	6%
Slots: ages 6 and over	13,527	14,029	4%
Family child care homes	3,389	3,226	-5%
Slots for all ages[8]	27,780	30,356	9%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	81%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	14%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	88%
Only full-time available	9%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	55%
Homes with before-/after-school care	67%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	5%
In family child care homes	27%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Francisco County

"In San Francisco you have to do more than think about child care before you have your baby. You actually have to start looking. It is mind-boggling. I knew I really wanted my son in a licensed day care setting, but there just weren't enough options and not enough space."

–Sunan, mother of an infant

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**776,733**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		88,033
Total number of children under 18		112,802
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	22%	24,478
Total number of children ages 6-13		50,143
Total number of children ages 0-5		37,890
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	21%	7,995
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	20%	

San Francisco has the 37th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	52,246
% of children ages 6-13	61%	30,673
% of children ages 0-5	57%	21,573

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$10,403
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	87%
Median annual household income in the county	$46,559
Care for an infant as % of median income	22%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	38%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$63,474
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$16,344
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages, public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

One of the nation's least affordable places to live, San Francisco has lost many young families as a result of the high cost of living. Those families who remain struggle to find and afford child care and often spend up to half of their incomes on housing. The two local resource and referral (R&R) agencies, Wu Yee Children's Services and the Children's Council, are overwhelmed with pleas for subsidized child care, a demand that isn't met by existing funding. "There needs to be a significant increase in the amount of support for working low-income families," says an R&R staff member. "Even some of the parents who receive child care subsidies tell us that there's no incentive for being successful, when each small salary increase puts them in danger of having their subsidies cut off."

Even for those parents who can afford to pay for child care, infant-toddler care is extremely difficult to find in San Francisco. Despite a 27 percent increase in licensed center slots for children under two from 1998 to 2000, infant slots still make up only 4 percent of total center slots. Many centers and family child care providers find it more financially feasible to care for children over two, when caregiver-to-child ratios are more cost-effective. The R&Rs are focusing on increasing the number of family child care providers to build the infant-toddler care supply, providing recruitment and training programs in Spanish, English, and Cantonese to serve the diversity of the community. The results are strong: The number of family child care home slots rose 97 percent from 1998 to 2000, reversing an earlier trend.

The city invests in child care

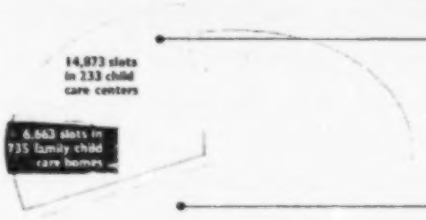
Influenced by child care advocates in San Francisco, city and county leaders have funded an array of child care initiatives. Local government has provided funding to support child care subsidies, child care mental health consultation, and help for caregivers of children with special needs. The Children and Families Commission has invested in a stipend program for providers who serve infants and toddlers. A tax on new development helps pay for provider loans and grants, and the Wages Plus Compensation Program ensures child care workers receive at least $9 per hour for their work. San Francisco is also the site of one of the first CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) programs. Despite these many efforts to improve local child care availability, affordability, and quality, "Parents, many of them newcomers to this country, need a lot of support as they face poverty in an urban environment," explains an R&R director.

For more information about child care in San Francisco County, call:

Children's Council of San Francisco 415-276-2900
Wu Yee Children's Services 415-391-4721

Child Care Supply in San Francisco County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Francisco County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 21,536 slots

69% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	67% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	29% of center slots

31% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 52,246

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	21,573 children
Ages 6-13	30,673 children

San Francisco County ranks 2nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 41% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 2.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	46% of calls
Preschool care	46% of calls
School-age care	8% of calls
Family child care homes	61% of calls
Child care centers	48% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	87%
Part-time care	43%
Before- and/or after-school care	3%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	88%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	42%

Between 1998 and 2000, requests for full-time care for children under six years old increased to 88 percent from 80 percent. In 2000, 23 percent of callers requested a Chinese-speaking provider.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	1%

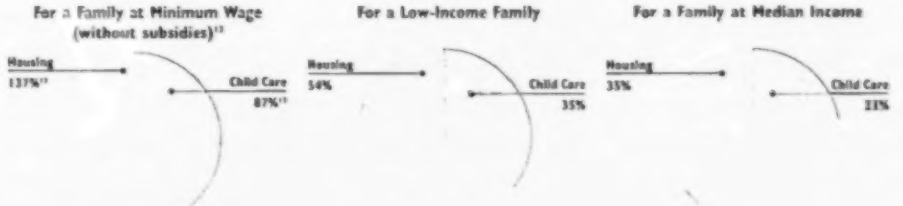
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	257	233	-9%
Slots for infants	520	660	27%
Slots: ages 2-5	10,538	9,916	-6%
Slots: ages 6 and over	4,554	4,297	-6%
Family child care homes	448	735	64%
Slots for all ages[8]	3,382	6,663	97%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	56%
Only full-time available	23%
Only part-time available	21%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	26%
Homes with before-/after-school care	45%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	33%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



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12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Joaquin County

"I don't have any relatives nearby, and I don't make enough money to afford child care. Without the help of Family Resource and Referral Center, I don't know what I would do."

–Pang, mother of three school-age children

With a projected population growth of more than 50 percent in the next 20 years, San Joaquin County faces tough challenges to its child care system. Job growth, welfare-to-work, and the county's relatively low cost of housing (compared to the Bay Area) have swelled the ranks of working parents, many with long commutes. Some child care providers open as early as 4 a.m. and close after 7 p.m. to accommodate parents who commute to Silicon Valley or San Francisco. Many families, however, have difficulty locating care, especially for school-age children and infants. Although from 1998 to 2000 there was a 4 percent increase in the number of slots at licensed child care centers for school-age children, the supply is still inadequate; in that same time period, the number of infant slots at licensed centers actually fell 23 percent.

Thousands wait for financial assistance

More than a quarter of San Joaquin County children live in poverty, and about 6,000 children are waiting for an opportunity to receive a child care subsidy. Roughly 70 percent of low-income working parents who receive child care subsidies turn to relatives or friends to care for their children, according to staff members at the Family Resource and Referral (R&R) Center, which has increased efforts to train these caregivers. For many of these families, such license-exempt caregivers are more accessible in a county where public transit is limited and transportation to child care facilities can be a major hurdle.

Provider training improves quality

Provider participation at training sessions has increased, say R&R staff, who estimate that 240 providers each month attend workshops to improve their child development and business skills. "We're seeing good results in the quality of care," says a staff member. A quality and capacity grant funded by the Human Services Agency has helped increase parents' awareness about quality child care. On buses and billboards, at information kiosks, and in newspapers, the message is being sent in different languages that quality care is available and important for children.

The R&R is working with the local Council of Governments to ensure that access to child care is made a part of transportation planning. By helping to recruit dozens of new providers, the agency is improving local availability of child care for infants and toddlers, for children with special needs, and for parents who must work during evenings and weekends.

For more information about child care in San Joaquin County, call:

Family Resource & Referral Center 209-948-1546

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**563,598**
% change in population 1990-2000		17%
Total number of children under 14		135,562
Total number of children under 18		174,569
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	47,657
Total number of children ages 6-13		80,886
Total number of children ages 0-5		54,676
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	28%	15,091
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		30%

San Joaquin has the 24th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	49%	66,806
% of children ages 6-13	52%	42,385
% of children ages 0-5	45%	24,421

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

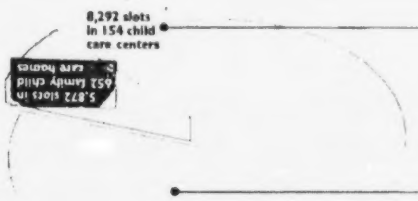
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,879
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	58%
Median annual household income in the county	$38,218
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,119
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,200
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in San Joaquin County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Joaquin County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 14,164 slots

59% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	75% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	21% of center slots

41% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 66,806

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	24,421 children
Ages 6-13	42,385 children

San Joaquin County ranks 46th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 21% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	26% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	32% of calls
Family child care homes	93% of calls
Child care centers	71% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	78%
Part-time care	29%
Before- and/or after-school care	20%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	23%

Requests for care in centers increased from 54 percent in 1998 to 71 percent in 2000. Requests for school-age care increased slightly between 1998 and 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	2%

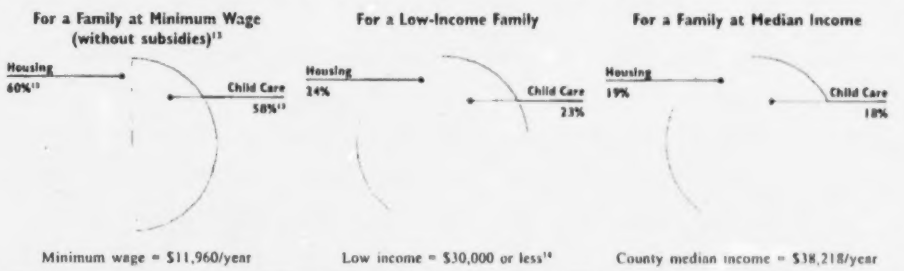
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	169	154	-9%
Slots for infants	447	344	-23%
Slots: ages 2-5	7,283	6,248	-14%
Slots: ages 6 and over	1,628	1,700	4%
Family child care homes	616	652	6%
Slots for all ages[8]	4,262	5,872	38%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	72%
Only full-time available	3%
Only part-time available	26%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	25%
Homes with before-/after-school care	77%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	5%
In family child care homes	29%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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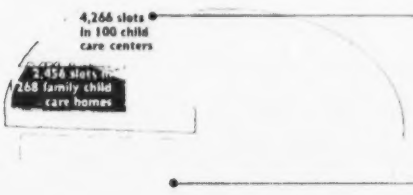
Child Care Supply in San Luis Obispo County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Luis Obispo County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 6,722 slots

63% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	1% of center slots
Ages 2-5	68% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	31% of center slots

37% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 24,679

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	8,293 children
Ages 6-13	16,386 children

San Luis Obispo County ranks 22nd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 27% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.7 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	40% of calls
Preschool care	35% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	86% of calls
Child care centers	14% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	51%
Part-time care	49%
Before- and/or after-school care	11%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	58%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	42%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 54 percent in 1998 to 58 percent in 2000, while requests for part-time care for children under six decreased from 46 percent to 42 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	11%

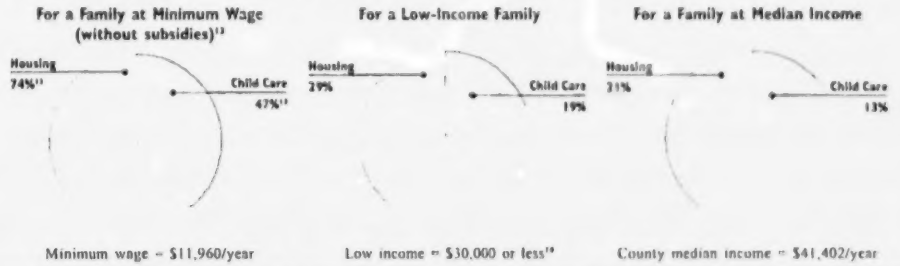
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	84	100	19%
Slots for infants	30	42	40%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,528	2,917	15%
Slots: ages 6 and over	871	1,307	50%
Family child care homes	309	268	-13%
Slots for all ages[8]	2,712	2,456	-9%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	63%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	37%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	95%
Only full-time available	1%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	36%
Homes with before-/after-school care	65%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	25%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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San Mateo County

"I can't keep begging people to watch my baby. But there isn't any financial assistance for people like me who earn too much to qualify for subsidies but somehow not enough to easily pay for child care."

–Norma, mother of an infant and twin 10-year-olds

With one of the state's highest median home prices and one of the lowest unemployment rates, San Mateo County has experienced increased pressure on its child care supply. Despite the important role child care plays in the economy of the county, many family child care providers have either closed or moved out of the county because they are unable to afford housing. Many small and nonprofit child care centers have also had to close because of escalating rents and difficulty in recruiting and training qualified staff. Despite the growing demand for child care, the county had a 23 percent decline in licensed slots for infants between 1998 and 2000.

Cost of living means more parents working

With housing and child care costs on the rise, many parents in San Mateo County are not able to stay home with their children; two-parent households require two incomes. For some young families – particularly those not earning technology-industry salaries – paying for both child care and housing is a struggle. Even families who receive financial assistance to pay for child care find their choices are limited, according to the Child Care Coordinating Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. The Council estimates that about 40 percent of families with subsidies ask neighbors and relatives to watch their children, often because these arrangements are more flexible than licensed care.

Staff members at the R&R and the local child care planning council are leading a countywide Child Care Action Campaign with the goal of increasing the licensed child care supply by 10 percent over the next five years. The campaign is advocating for public and private sector support of the San Mateo CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability) initiative and other strategies designed to attract, educate, and retain qualified early childhood educators in the county. Meanwhile, several initiatives are underway to improve and expand child care facilities: The Peninsula Quality Fund for Early Childhood Facilities has been created to provide grants to improve facilities and offer business planning assistance, while the Child Care Facilities Expansion Fund raises capital to build new centers. The R&R is also targeting land use planning in some communities as a strategy for linking child care development to economic development, transportation, and housing.

For more information about child care in San Mateo County, call:

Child Care Coordinating Council of San Mateo County 650-696-8780

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**707,161**
% change in population 1990-2000		9%
Total number of children under 14		128,020
Total number of children under 18		162,100
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	10%	15,400
Total number of children ages 6-13		73,495
Total number of children ages 0-5		54,525
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	9%	4,744
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		14%

San Mateo has the 57th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	66%	84,831
% of children ages 6-13	69%	50,594
% of children ages 0-5	63%	34,237

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$10,750
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	89%
Median annual household income in the county	$61,429
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$63,559
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$16,344
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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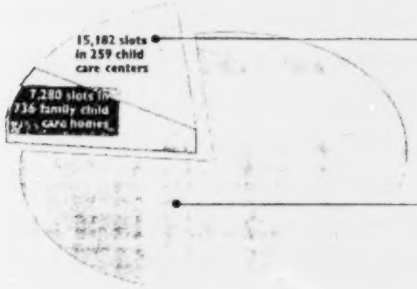
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in San Mateo County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in San Mateo County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 22,462 slots

68% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	27% of center slots

32% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 84,831

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	34,237 children
Ages 6-13	50,594 children

San Mateo County ranks 26th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	43% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	14% of calls
Family child care homes	93% of calls
Child care centers	87% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	72%
Part-time care	41%
Before- and/or after-school care	7%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	74%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	38%

In 2000, 5 percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider. The percent of requests for before- and after-school care fell from 13 percent in 1998 to 7 percent in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	1%

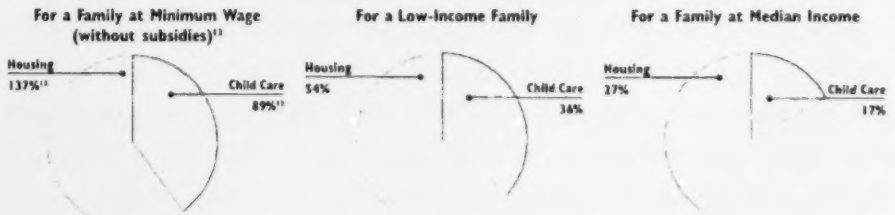
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	258	259	0%
Slots for infants	752	578	-23%
Slots: ages 2-5	10,526	10,552	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	4,169	4,052	-3%
Family child care homes	739	736	0%
Slots for all ages[8]	6,434	7,280	13%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	76%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	19%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	79%
Only full-time available	15%
Only part-time available	6%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	34%
Homes with before-/after-school care	49%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	21%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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While there is a serious child care shortage in northern Santa Barbara County, the situation is even more critical in the southern, coastal part of the county, where the median home price topped $500,000 in 2000. Real estate costs have forced some child care centers and family child care homes to close and prevented financing of construction or leasing of new ones. In Santa Maria, the largest city in the northern part of the county, there is a growing need for care to accommodate rotating shifts and during evenings and weekends, when many parents work in retail or service jobs. Unable to find flexible child care arrangements with licensed providers, many families turn to relatives and neighbors.

Even though slots for infants in licensed centers increased from 1998 to 2000, the supply of infant care is inadequate to meet demand. Parents often become frustrated while waiting months or even years for slots to open at child care centers that provide services to infants and toddlers.

Low-income families have few options

Parents who participate in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, receive financial support to help them pay for child care. In contrast, other low-income families who are eligible for assistance often cannot receive subsidies due to a funding shortage. Staff at the Children's Resource and Referral (R&R) Program worry that the financial burden of child care will intensify when many CalWORKs families lose child care funding in the coming years. "As parents 'time-out' of CalWORKs, they will compete for the same limited funds and subsidized child care slots," warns an R&R staff member. "That means it will be even more difficult for low-income families, and people may lose their jobs after losing child care."

To address gaps in supply and improve quality, the R&R and the Children and Families Commission are working closely with employers and local officials. The R&R and Community Care Licensing collaborate to help renters and landlords understand state laws prohibiting housing discrimination against the development of family child care homes. This has been particularly helpful in the southern part of the county, where affordable housing is at a premium. The local child care planning council and local child care coordinators are working with officials to streamline a complicated zoning process for new providers and with the R&R to expand provider training and retention programs. This has contributed to a growth in family child care slots. Finally, the county has a new Office of Early Care and Education, which is taking steps to improve quality and assist providers with stipends.

For more information about child care in Santa Barbara County, call:

Children's Resource & Referral	
Santa Maria	805-925-7071
Santa Barbara	805-963-6631

Santa Barbara County

"When I had my baby, I had my fingers crossed that she could go to the same home day care that my other daughter goes to. But that provider had a waiting list. I put her name on a waiting list at a child care center as soon as I found out I was pregnant, but now – a year later – there are still no openings."

–Ri, mother of two

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**399,347**
% change in population 1990-2000		8%
Total number of children under 14		78,037
Total number of children under 18		99,502
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	23%	22,388
Total number of children ages 6-13		46,491
Total number of children ages 0-5		31,546
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	23%	7,256
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	21%	

Santa Barbara has the 34th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	61%	47,793
% of children ages 6-13	65%	30,400
% of children ages 0-5	55%	17,393

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,575
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	72%
Median annual household income in the county	$43,156
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	32%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$53,500
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$10,536
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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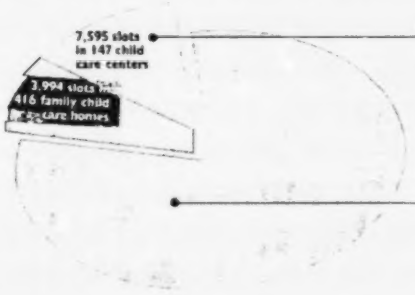
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Santa Barbara County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Santa Barbara County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 11,589 slots

66% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	3% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	27% of center slots

34% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 47,793

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	17,393 children
Ages 6-13	30,400 children

Santa Barbara County ranks 37th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 24% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	39% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	19% of calls
Family child care homes	89% of calls
Child care centers	33% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	80%
Part-time care	21%
Before- and/or after-school care	10%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	82%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	20%

In 2000, 16 percent of callers requested Spanish-speaking providers, up from 12 percent in 1998. From 1998 to 2000, requests for care in centers fell from 60 to 33 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	12%

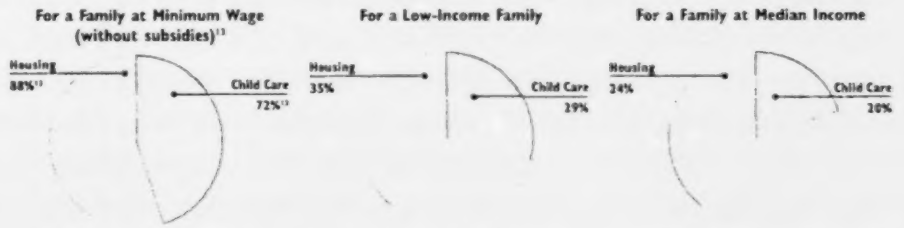
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	147	147	0%
Slots for infants	204	239	17%
Slots: ages 2-5	5,358	5,322	-1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	1,915	2,034	6%
Family child care homes	407	416	2%
Slots for all ages[8]	3,514	3,994	14%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	70%
Only full-time available	6%
Only part-time available	24%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	90%
Only full-time available	5%
Only part-time available	5%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	36%
Homes with before-/after-school care	71%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	36%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



Minimum wage = $11,960/year | Low income = $30,000 or less[14] | County median income = $43,156/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Santa Clara County

"I have struggled for a year, moving my granddaughter here and there to be cared for by different people. Then I called the R&R. They gave me several listings of child care facilities close to our home and told me how to check in with the state licensing agency to see if there had been any complaints about them."

–Louise, grandmother of a 2-year-old

The fluctuations of Silicon Valley's economy have had dramatic impacts on Santa Clara County's child care system. Child care providers, both in centers and family child care homes, have struggled to keep up with real estate costs for years. Many have closed down because of rising rents and the difficulty of retaining staff who cannot afford to live on the wages offered to child care workers. But declining employment has also resulted in sudden drops in enrollment at some centers serving parents who work for technology companies. Coping with these changes is difficult for many child care providers, according to the Community Child Care Council of Santa Clara County (4C Council), the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "If providers can't operate at full capacity year-round and their rent goes up, they are often forced to close," says a staff member.

Finding affordable care is a challenge

Low-income families without child care subsidies are sometimes stymied by a system that guarantees assistance only for the poorest families, including those participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program. Other low-income, working families may qualify for government-subsidized child care, but limited funding leaves thousands of eligible families on a waiting list. Recent research from Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) has shown that a licensed provider is used by 70 percent of single, working mothers with a child age 1 to 3 who receive a child care subsidy, compared to just 19 percent of those who do not receive financial assistance. Without the subsidy, many families turn to relatives and friends to care for their children.

The county diversifies its provider pool

Local child care advocates have reached out to diverse populations in Santa Clara County so that more child care will be available for Spanish- and Vietnamese-speaking families. A grant from the state Child Care Initiative Project has enabled the 4C Council to bring to low-income neighborhoods some recruitment programs that provide training in business skills and child development. An experimental program funded by the county Children and Families Commission allows family child care providers to repay loans in barter services rather than money by caring for children whose child care subsidies have expired. Offering parenting skills classes and grants to remodel and improve safety at child care sites, the R&R and partnering social services agencies are working to promote quality care in Santa Clara County.

For more information about child care in Santa Clara County, call:

Community Child Care Council
of Santa Clara County 408-487-0747

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**1,682,585**
% change in population 1990-2000		12%
Total number of children under 14		330,451
Total number of children under 18		416,402
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	14%	56,631
Total number of children ages 6-13		187,113
Total number of children ages 0-5		143,338
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	14%	19,781
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	14%	

Santa Clara has the 53rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	60%	199,365
% of children ages 6-13	64%	119,575
% of children ages 0-5	56%	79,790

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

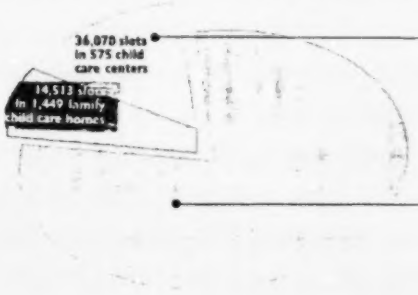
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$11,275
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	94%
Median annual household income in the county	$63,973
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$64,991
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$14,652
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Santa Clara County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Santa Clara County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 50,583 slots

71% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	7% of center slots
Ages 2-5	62% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	31% of center slots

29% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 199,365

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	79,790 children
Ages 6-13	119,575 children

Santa Clara County ranks 35th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 25% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	39% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	19% of calls
Family child care homes	72% of calls
Child care centers	73% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	76%
Part-time care	30%
Before- and/or after-school care	13%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	81%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	24%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 74 percent in 1998 to 81 percent in 2000; requests for part-time care for children under six decreased from 32 percent to 24 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	5%

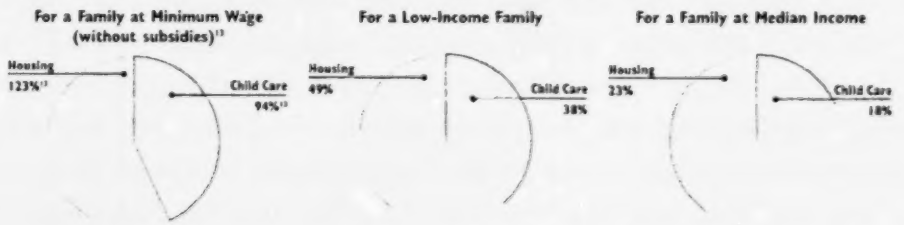
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	576	575	0%
Slots for infants	2,355	2,382	1%
Slots: ages 2-5	22,673	22,425	-1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	11,170	11,263	1%
Family child care homes	1,611	1,449	-10%
Slots for all ages[8]	13,662	14,513	6%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	78%
Only full-time available	6%
Only part-time available	16%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	85%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	42%
Homes with before-/after-school care	65%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	17%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Santa Cruz County

"It's really hard to find quality child care for my 5-year-old twins, who have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). There aren't many providers with the necessary training to deal with ADHD and some haven't even heard of it."

–Linda, guardian of five boys under age 12

Rising housing prices have hurt the availability of affordable, quality child care in Santa Cruz County, where the economy is increasingly tied to Silicon Valley. Many parents who commute on Highway 17 to jobs in the technology industry need flexible child care arrangements that accommodate their long workdays. But the scarcity of affordable housing has pushed out many providers. This has made it harder for parents – even those who have no trouble paying for child care – to find the care they need. From 1998 to 2000, the number of licensed child care centers in the county stayed almost flat, while the number of family child care homes dropped by 9 percent. Concerned about the shortage of care, child care advocates have used research from the Local Investment in Child Care project (which showed the economic impact of child care in the county) to develop ChildCare Ventures, a collaboration of business, government, and community organizations that promotes understanding of child care as a vital, sustainable part of the local economy.

Many low-income families in the county struggle to pay for child care. Child Development Resource Center, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, reports a growing demand for subsidized child care and programs with a sliding fee scale, even among families with two working parents. Residents who work in hotels, restaurants, and other businesses catering to tourists often work weekends and evenings, when little child care is available. Welfare-to-work parents, particularly those working rotating shifts, have added to the demand for non-traditional hour arrangements.

Living wages help some providers

In 2000, the city of Santa Cruz passed a living wage ordinance that guarantees employees of organizations that receive city funding a minimum of $11 to $12 per hour. Thanks to additional funding, seven city-funded child care centers have raised staff salaries without increasing their own costs.

R&R staff are working to increase child care supply in parts of the county where there are shortages. "We tell new providers that the highest demand is for infant and toddler care, school-age care, and care during non-traditional hours," an R&R staff member says. "We think that creating family child care homes near elementary schools would increase the number of after-school programs accessible from school sites." The R&R also offers business training workshops for providers, and is collaborating with the Children and Families Commission to increase the availability of special needs care.

For more information about child care in Santa Cruz County, call:

Child Development Resource Center
831-479-5282

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**255,602**
% change in population 1990-2000		11%
Total number of children under 14		46,808
Total number of children under 18		60,741
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	21%	12,938
Total number of children ages 6-13		28,069
Total number of children ages 0-5		18,739
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	23%	4,347
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		23%

Santa Cruz has the 33rd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	60%	28,491
% of children ages 6-13	65%	18,227
% of children ages 0-5	55%	10,264

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$9,517
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	79%
Median annual household income in the county	$47,849
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	34%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$59,439
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$12,252
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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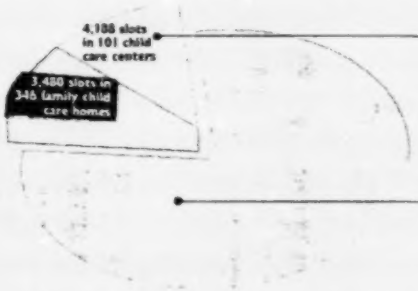
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Santa Cruz County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Santa Cruz County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 7,588 slots

54% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	7% of center slots
Ages 2-5	70% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	23% of center slots

46% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 28,491

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	10,264 children
Ages 6-13	18,227 children

Santa Cruz County ranks 24th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 27% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	38% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	19% of calls
Family child care homes	82% of calls
Child care centers	56% of calls
In-home care[10]	16% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	50%
Part-time care	53%
Before- and/or after-school care	9%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	52%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	50%

In 2000, 9 percent of callers requested referrals for Spanish-speaking providers. The percent of requests for care in centers decreased from 71 percent in 1998 to 56 percent in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

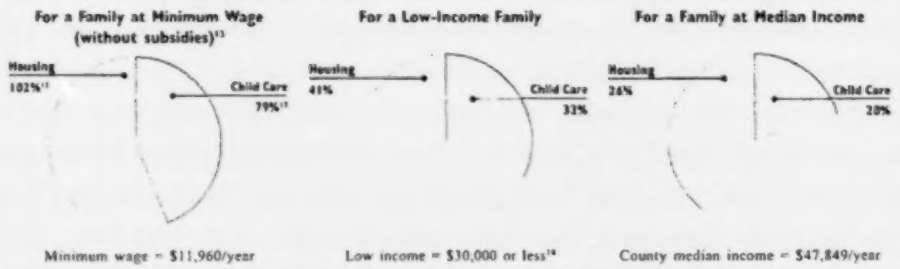
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	99	101	2%
Slots for infants	216	284	31%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,791	2,865	3%
Slots: ages 6 and over	671	959	43%
Family child care homes	380	346	-9%
Slots for all ages[8]	3,452	3,480	1%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	75%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	25%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	87%
Only full-time available	4%
Only part-time available	9%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	27%
Homes with before-/after-school care	61%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	5%
In family child care homes	24%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Shasta County

"For the price that some centers would charge to care for my two school-age children plus the baby, I would need to bring toothbrushes and move in because I couldn't afford child care and rent, too."

–Doreen, a mother of three

At the northern tip of the Sacramento Valley, Shasta County has been moving away from a timber-based economy to one in which retail and services, especially health services, are central. Many of these jobs pay low wages, and finding affordable, quality child care is a major challenge for families, particularly for those who live in the county's small communities. In the eastern part of the county, licensed child care is especially scarce; parents tend to rely on care provided by relatives and friends. License-exempt care is sometimes the only option for parents who work weekends and evenings or who have work schedules that change each week. Such unpredictability makes it difficult to coordinate child care plans, as most licensed child care providers accept children only during daytime hours.

Attrition spurs need for new providers

Families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, have had a significant impact on demand for child care, so recruiting new providers to meet the additional need is a top priority. According to Early Childhood Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, recruitment is especially urgent because veteran child care providers are increasingly leaving the field. "Providers are taking higher-paying jobs outside the child care profession," says an R&R staff member. "Burn-out is a significant issue with experienced providers, who say they are seeing more children with behavioral challenges and other special needs." The R&R collaborates with the Northeast Regional Resource Center to recruit and train new family child care providers, including helping license-exempt providers meet licensing requirements. Because recent gains in the number of infant slots in licensed centers have not been sufficient to meet demand, recruitment efforts are targeted toward increasing the number of family child care providers who serve children under age two.

Although slots for infants in licensed centers rose 48 percent from 1998 to 2000 and center slots for school-age children increased by 29 percent, the challenge of keeping providers in a profession that pays so little has severely limited growth in the overall supply of licensed care. Local schools also have been successful in obtaining state funding for before- and after-school programs which offer recreation activities and tutoring. Many parents rely on these programs to provide a safe place for their children when they are not in school. By educating parents and community leaders about the importance of quality programs through outreach in the local media and events, the R&R hopes that support for affordable, licensed child care for children of all ages in the county will grow.

For more information about child care in Shasta County, call:

Office of Education,
Early Childhood Services 530-225-2975

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**163,256**
% change in population 1990-2000		11%
Total number of children under 14		31,741
Total number of children under 18		42,674
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	28%	12,034
Total number of children ages 6-13		19,921
Total number of children ages 0-5		11,820
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	29%	3,475
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		36%

Shasta has the 18th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	51%	16,196
% of children ages 6-13	55%	10,859
% of children ages 0-5	45%	5,337

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,034
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	50%
Median annual household income in the county	$34,442
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,156
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,312
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Shasta County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Shasta County.

Licensed Child Care Supply = 4,239 slots

69% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	6% of center slots
Ages 2-5	53% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	41% of center slots

31% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 16,196

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	5,337 children
Ages 6-13	10,859 children

Shasta County ranks 28th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	27% of calls
Preschool care	46% of calls
School-age care	26% of calls
Family child care homes	86% of calls
Child care centers	34% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	62%
Part-time care	42%
Before- and/or after-school care	9%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	64%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	40%

From 1998 to 2000, requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 11 to 23 percent. In 2000, 8 percent of callers requested providers who could accommodate rotating schedules.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	23%

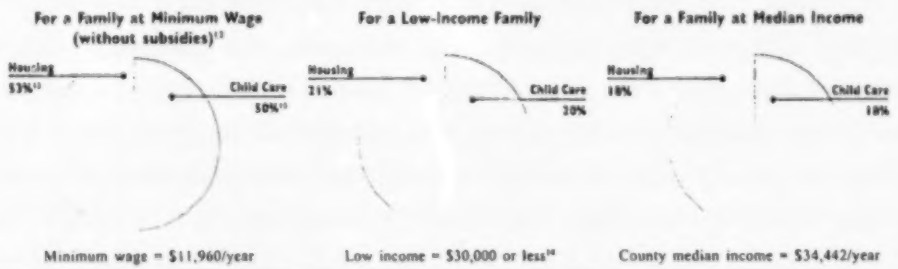
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	62	56	-10%
Slots for infants	116	172	48%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,792	1,536	-14%
Slots: ages 6 and over	931	1,199	29%
Family child care homes	150	129	-14%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,362	1,332	-2%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	90%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	10%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	85%
Only full-time available	12%
Only part-time available	2%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	56%
Homes with before-/after-school care	84%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	36%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Sierra County

"It would have been hard for me to work in the child care profession without financial help. Before I learned about the subsidy, I didn't know that assistance paying for child care was available for people like me who are not on welfare or unemployed."

–Ruth, mother of three and part-time child care worker

In mountainous Sierra County, where the population averages less than four people per square mile, families are often isolated from licensed child care centers and family child care homes. "Because families are so spread out from one another, it is difficult to provide preschool or play group experiences," says a staff member with Sierra Nevada Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. During winter, icy roads and the lack of public transportation make it hard for parents to access child care, according to R&R staff members. Demand for licensed care is even higher during the summer months when there are few slots for school-age children. The R&R notes that many parents rely on relatives and friends to provide child care during that time, but sometimes they have little choice but to leave older children home alone.

Economic instability affects child care supply

With the closure of a timber mill and layoffs at the local hospital, dozens of Sierra County families have migrated out of the county to seek work. Although jobs can be hard to find, relatively cheap housing has attracted low-income families to the county, but many are unable to afford licensed child care and instead rely on relatives and friends to care for their children. The economic climate has made it difficult for family child care providers to stay in business; as of fall 2001, there were no family child care homes in Loyalton, the county's largest town. Despite R&R incentives to recruit providers, particularly Spanish-speaking providers to serve the county's growing Latino population, only a handful of slots for children in licensed care were added between 1998 and 2000.

New programs improve child care quality

The county's two most populous towns, Loyalton and Downieville, are more than an hour's drive apart, making collaboration between child care advocates difficult. Nevertheless, the R&R, with support from the county Children and Families Commission, has implemented a new program to increase the skills of providers by providing financial incentives to those who attend workshops and classes. Child care providers can choose from a variety of incentives, including a stipend, health care benefits, an annuity, or life insurance. The R&R also works closely with the Sierra County Child Abuse Council to host parent support groups and programs that promote child safety in child care as well as in the home.

For more information about child care in Sierra County, call:

Sierra Nevada Children's Services 530-993-1288

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**3,555**
% change in population 1990-2000		7%
Total number of children under 14		584
Total number of children under 18		830
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	15%	126
Total number of children ages 6-13		391
Total number of children ages 0-5		193
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	9%	18
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		26%

Sierra has the 56th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	46%	266
% of children ages 6-13	45%	178
% of children ages 0-5	46%	88

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

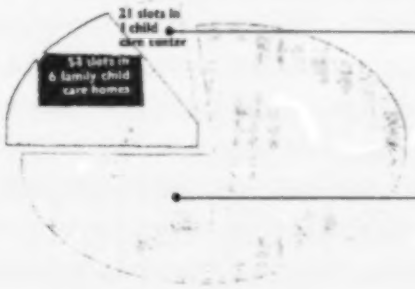
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,929
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	66%
Median annual household income in the county	$37,480
Care for an infant as % of median income	21%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$43,663
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,072
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Sierra County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Sierra County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 75 slots

28% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	100% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	0% of center slots

72% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 266

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	88 children
Ages 6-13	178 children

Sierra County ranks 18th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 28% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.5 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	25% of calls
Preschool care	75% of calls
School-age care	0% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	0% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	50%
Part-time care	50%
Before- and/or after-school care	0%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	50%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	50%

Between 1998 and 2000, caller requests shifted from requests for school-age care to requests for infant/toddler care. The percent of requests for preschool care remained steady.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	0%

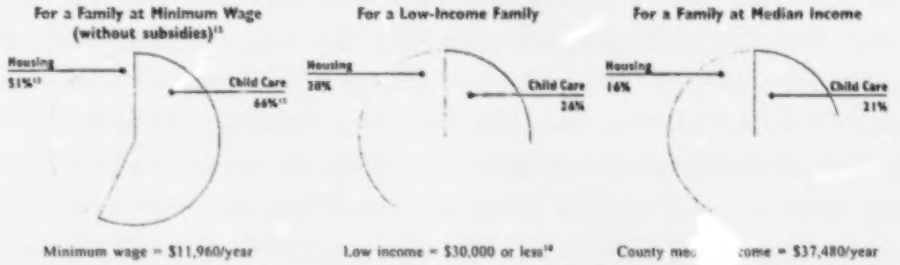
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	1	1	0%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	21	21	0%
Slots: ages 6 and over	0	0	0%
Family child care homes	6	6	0%
Slots for all ages[8]	50	54	8%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	100%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	100%
Homes with before-/after-school care	83%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	0%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Siskiyou County

"The cost of child care is a real problem for me. I pay $700 a month for child care for the three kids, plus I have to drive from one end of town to the other to drop them all off. When you balance it all out, sometimes it doesn't seem worth it to work."

—Robin, guardian grandmother of twin infants and a preschooler

Rural Siskiyou County, which lies along the Oregon border, depends heavily on tourism-related service and forestry jobs. Many positions are seasonal, leaving workers to seek other jobs during the winter months. Instability of the local employment supply and the non-traditional hours often required in the county's two major industries hurt parents' ability to find reliable child care arrangements. Low-income parents, particularly those families who make just enough so they don't qualify for child care subsidies, are often unable to afford quality child care.

Finding child care is a challenge

Infant and toddler child care is extremely limited in Siskiyou County, leaving many families in the lurch. Although the number of infant slots in licensed centers has been increasing, there is still not enough to meet demand. Families complain of spending months searching for infant care, and some parents must rearrange their work schedules to accommodate a provider's availability. Access to child care is also limited by the lack of public transportation in the county and icy roads during winter. "The availability of child care often determines which school district children attend," says a staff member with Siskiyou Child Care Council, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "Children often commute long distances with parents because they find child care near where they work."

Unable to find licensed child care that fits their needs, many low-income families, particularly those participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, rely on relatives and friends to watch their children. These caregivers do not need to be licensed, as long as they are only caring for the children of one family. But these arrangements are often only short-term, leaving parents to find new caregivers frequently.

License-exempt caregivers get safety training

The R&R, in partnership with the local child care planning council, is working to help license-exempt caregivers attend First Aid and CPR classes, which they must complete in order to serve families with subsidies. License-exempt providers are also encouraged to attend other training workshops and become licensed. Another recruiting tool used by the R&R is a start-up fund to help new providers start their business; according to the R&R, this program has helped increase the supply of care for every age group. Quality improvement is also needed among existing licensed child care providers, and financial incentives from the county Children and Families Commission are available for those who get additional training and education.

For more information about child care in Siskiyou County, call:

Siskiyou Child Care Council 530-938-2748

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**44,301**
% change in population 1990-2000		2%
Total number of children under 14		7,675
Total number of children under 18		10,620
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	30%	3,197
Total number of children ages 6-13		4,933
Total number of children ages 0-5		2,742
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	34%	921
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		36%

Siskiyou has the 8th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	51%	3,930
% of children ages 6-13	56%	2,738
% of children ages 0-5	43%	1,192

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,196
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	43%
Median annual household income in the county	$30,226
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	31%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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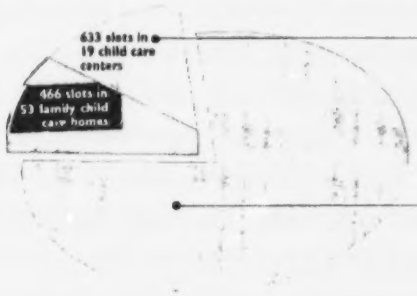
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Siskiyou County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Siskiyou County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,099 slots

58% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	2% of center slots
Ages 2-5	80% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	18% of center slots

42% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 3,930

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,192 children
Ages 6-13	2,738 children

Siskiyou County ranks 20th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 28% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	28% of calls
Preschool care	40% of calls
School-age care	33% of calls
Family child care homes	99% of calls
Child care centers	28% of calls
In-home care[10]	5% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	43%
Part-time care	60%
Before- and/or after-school care	16%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	51%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	52%

Requests for infant/toddler care increased from 23 percent to 28 percent from 1998 to 2000, while requests for before- and after-school care increased from 10 percent to 16 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	22%

Licensed Child Care Supply

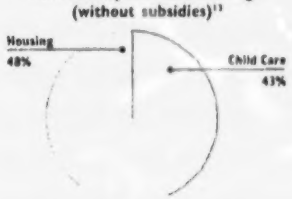
Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	15	19	27%
Slots for infants	10	12	20%
Slots: ages 2-5	404	509	26%
Slots: ages 6 and over	63	112	78%
Family child care homes	35	53	51%
Slots for all ages[8]	288	466	62%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	62%
Only full-time available	6%
Only part-time available	32%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	67%
Only full-time available	25%
Only part-time available	7%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	45%
Homes with before-/after-school care	62%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	26%

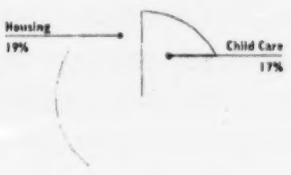
Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center

For a Family at Minimum Wage (without subsidies)[13]



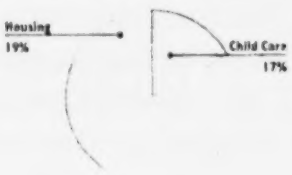
Minimum wage = $11,960/year

For a Low-Income Family



Low income = $30,000 or less[14]

For a Family at Median Income



County median income = $30,226/year

8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Solano County

"A lot of parents wait for an opening with their child care provider if that person is really good. They plan their pregnancies around when there is space in a particular child care center or home because finding infant care is so hard."

—Aimee, mother of two

With expanding job opportunities and housing prices that are relatively low compared to other Bay Area counties, Solano County has seen its population increase steadily in recent years. But even with a 22 percent increase in the total number of child care slots in the county from 1998 to 2000, supply is not keeping up with demand. Thousands of working parents commute to San Francisco or Sacramento, but care is often unavailable during the hours they need it. "There are certain cities where you can't find providers open past 5:30 p.m. or earlier than 7 a.m.," says a staff member with Solano Family & Children's Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "That's not realistic for most families." As demand for child care for infants, toddlers, and school-age children has climbed, so has the cost of care. According to the R&R, some parents have monthly child care costs that are higher than their mortgage payments.

Awareness of child care issues grows

The increase in child care demand brought on by CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, and support for children's programs from the Children and Families Commission have drawn attention to the challenges that working families face in finding quality, affordable child care in Solano County. City planning agencies are working with newly locating businesses to ensure that child care for employees is among their considerations. Solano Family & Children's Services focuses on educating parents about how to recognize and choose quality child care by bringing information to them at work sites, community fairs, and college campuses. Funding from the Children and Families Commission has doubled the amount of money available for CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability). The CARES program provides financial incentives to child care workers who meet certain education and training qualifications, commit to continuing their professional development, and agree to remain in the profession for a specified period of time.

More families request school-age care

Although the number of licensed center slots for school-age children jumped 46 percent in two years, there is still a shortage of school-age care. "Parents want someone who will help their children with homework, keep them busy, and provide a safe environment," an R&R staff member says. Access to school-age programs is limited by the lack of transportation between schools and child care facilities; only two cities in the county have after-school programs located on school sites. The R&R and the local child care planning council are working to educate school districts and city governments about the need for on-site programs at schools.

For more information about child care in Solano County, call:

Solano Family & Children's Services
707-863-3950

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**394,542**
% change in population 1990-2000		16%
Total number of children under 14		87,067
Total number of children under 18		111,852
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	17%	19,015
Total number of children ages 6-13		52,103
Total number of children ages 0-5		34,964
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	19%	6,503
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		27%

Solano has the 41st highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	61%	53,922
% of children ages 6-13	67%	34,860
% of children ages 0-5	55%	19,062

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$7,988
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	67%
Median annual household income in the county	$49,466
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	28%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$47,608
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,648
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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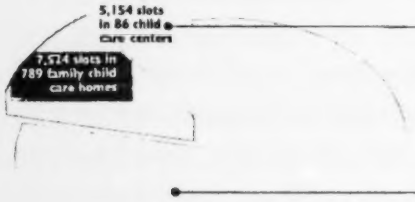
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Solano County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Solano County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 12,678 slots

41% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	74% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	21% of center slots

59% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 53,922

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	19,062 children
Ages 6-13	34,860 children

Solano County ranks 38th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 24% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	27% of calls
Family child care homes	95% of calls
Child care centers	64% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	63%
Part-time care	40%
Before- and/or after-school care	25%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	73%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	29%

Requests for care during non-traditional hours increased from 16 to 23 percent between 1998 and 2000. In 2000, 4 percent of requests were for providers who could accommodate rotating schedules.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	23%

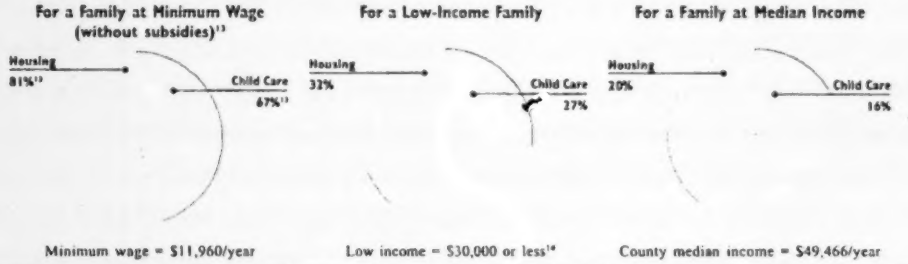
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	79	86	9%
Slots for infants	192	218	14%
Slots: ages 2-5	3,789	3,838	1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	753	1,098	46%
Family child care homes	682	789	16%
Slots for all ages[8]	5,624	7,524	34%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	85%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	15%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	13%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	31%
Homes with before-/after-school care	51%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	9%
In family child care homes	22%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Sonoma County

"Without the subsidy, it would cost half of my income to pay for child care. My rent is already half my income. I wouldn't be able to survive without help."

–Julie, single mother of two

In Sonoma County, the population of children ages 0-5 has dropped slightly in recent years, but the number of child care centers and family child care homes has also declined due in part to the high cost of living, so the overall supply of licensed child care remains inadequate to meet demand. This is particularly true for infant/toddler care. Several family child care homes, which traditionally care for infants and toddlers, are choosing to care only for preschoolers because, with lower staff-to-child ratios, such care is more cost-effective. And child care centers, buffeted by rising rents and a staffing shortage, are closing and not being replaced.

With fewer options, many families rely on license-exempt care provided by relatives and friends. The trend is particularly common among welfare-to-work participants who frequently work night and weekend shifts, when little licensed care is available. "Some parents have found a trusted family member to care for their children, but others aren't so lucky," says a counselor with 4Cs of Sonoma County (Community Child Care Council). 4Cs, together with River Child Care Services, a partner resource and referral (R&R) serving the western part of the county, ensures that license-exempt caregivers throughout Sonoma County have access to health, safety, and child development training, as well as information about becoming licensed.

Families' expenses continually mount

Once considered a low-cost alternative to other Bay Area counties, Sonoma has seen housing prices rise dramatically as the telecommunications industry expanded. In rural areas where high-paying jobs are scarce, young families struggle to make ends meet. Many parents complain that child care is unaffordable without subsidies, and a number of subsidized programs, such as Head Start, are not full-day programs that match parents' work schedules. To address this, the R&Rs in the county have developed afternoon programs for children who attend Head Start and need full-day care.

4Cs of Sonoma County partners with the Human Services Department to offer a training program that is meant to boost the local child care supply. The R&Rs also host regular support groups to encourage providers to share experiences, get training, and overcome the isolation of working alone with children. Family child care providers also have shown increased interest in expanding their skills on topics ranging from special needs children to better business techniques. "They want to be respected as the professionals they are, not treated as babysitters," says an R&R staff member. "With more training and support, an increased level of professionalism, particularly among the more experienced providers, has emerged."

For more information about child care in Sonoma County, call:

4Cs of Sonoma County	707-544-3077
River Child Care Services	707-869-3613

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**458,614**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		85,803
Total number of children under 18		112,153
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	14%	15,253
Total number of children ages 6-13		52,273
Total number of children ages 0-5		33,530
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	15%	4,862
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		23%

Sonoma has the 52nd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	63%	54,321
% of children ages 6-13	67%	35,215
% of children ages 0-5	57%	19,106

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

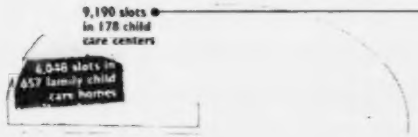
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,029
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	67%
Median annual household income in the county	$46,951
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$53,049
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$10,632
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Sonoma County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Sonoma County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 15,238 slots

60% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	3% of center slots
Ages 2-5	62% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	35% of center slots

40% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 54,321

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	19,106 children
Ages 6-13	35,215 children

Sonoma County ranks 19th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 28% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	35% of calls
Preschool care	41% of calls
School-age care	24% of calls
Family child care homes	93% of calls
Child care centers	31% of calls
In-home care[10]	2% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	59%
Part-time care	41%
Before- and/or after-school care	7%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	61%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	39%

Requests for full-time care for children under six decreased from 73 percent in 1998 to 61 percent in 2000, while requests for part-time care for children under six increased from 28 to 39 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

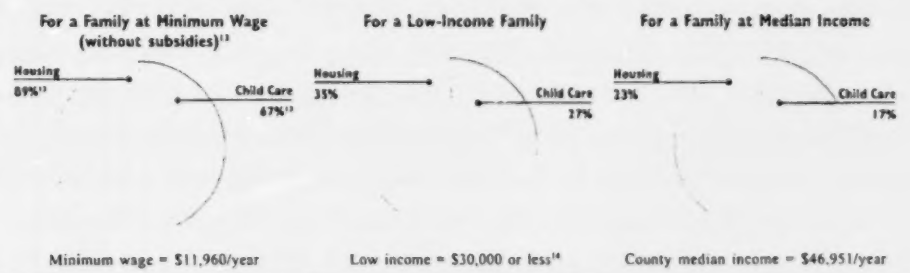
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	**1998**	**2000**	**Change**
Child care centers	199	178	-11%
Slots for infants	238	244	3%
Slots: ages 2-5	5,951	5,705	-4%
Slots: ages 6 and over	3,377	3,241	-4%
Family child care homes	746	657	-12%
Slots for all ages[8]	5,802	6,048	4%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	84%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	15%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	92%
Only full-time available	4%
Only part-time available	4%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	59%
Homes with before-/after-school care	79%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	1%
In family child care homes	19%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Stanislaus County

"You need to have reliable child care and good child care, but you have to find a way to pay for it because good child care is not cheap."

–Stephanie, married mother of two

In the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, Stanislaus County is also within commuting distance to parts of the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento. Thousands of residents employed in the county work in agribusiness, health care, and manufacturing. Increasingly, though, the small-town feel of many local communities has lured young Bay Area workers, who are willing to commute long hours to live in more affordable Stanislaus County. That may be just one reason why the Stanislaus County Office of Education, Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Program receives many requests for infant care. Although there is an adequate supply of infant care in some parts of the county, supply in outlying areas, such as Hughson, is insufficient to meet demand, according to R&R staff members.

More child care slots are needed

Despite a net gain of six licensed child care centers from 1998 to 2000, the number of family child care homes fell 22 percent, contributing to a decline in the total supply of licensed child care slots during that time. "Retention of family child care home providers is very difficult," says an R&R staff member, "because of low compensation and the challenges of running a small business." To boost supply, the R&R has brought its services to communities throughout the county, sponsoring licensing orientations for potential providers every month in a different city, from Modesto to Oakdale to Patterson. The R&R also hosts licensing orientations in Spanish, responding to increasing demand for Spanish-language child care providers.

As part of its drive to make child care resources more accessible to local communities, the R&R is also working with the local Employment Development Department and Community Services Agency to provide on-site referral services to parents and distribute information to job seekers who may be interested in becoming licensed providers.

Working families cannot afford care

A major challenge for many parents in the county is the cost of child care. For parents participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, there are child care subsidies; but for the rest of the working poor, subsidies are limited. "Many parents call back to get new lists of providers because they can't afford anyone on previous lists," says an R&R staff member.

For more information about child care in Stanislaus County, call:

Stanislaus County Office of Education,
Child Care Resource and Referral Program
209-558-4050

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**446,997**
% change in population 1990-2000		21%
Total number of children under 14		108,287
Total number of children under 18		139,222
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	37,868
Total number of children ages 6-13		65,064
Total number of children ages 0-5		43,223
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	29%	12,708
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		28%

Stanislaus has the 18th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	51%	56,169
% of children ages 6-13	56%	36,443
% of children ages 0-5	46%	19,726

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

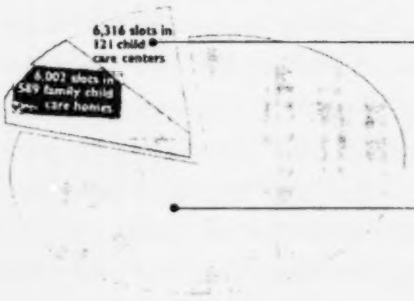
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,537
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$38,523
Care for an infant as % of median income	17%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	29%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$41,287
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,948
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Stanislaus County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Stanislaus County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 12,318 slots

51% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	8% of center slots
Ages 2-5	81% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	11% of center slots

49% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 56,169

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	19,726 children
Ages 6-13	36,443 children

Stanislaus County ranks 43rd among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.6 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	26% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	32% of calls
Family child care homes	96% of calls
Child care centers	88% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	66%
Part-time care	48%
Before- and/or after-school care	32%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	71%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	35%

Requests for part-time care rose from 32 percent to 48 percent between 1998 and 2000, and requests for part-time care for children under six increased from 16 percent to 35 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	13%

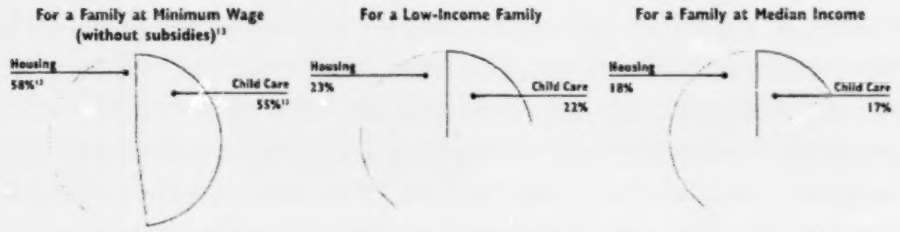
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	115	121	5%
Slots for infants	450	493	10%
Slots: ages 2-5	5,204	5,130	-1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	665	693	4%
Family child care homes	757	589	-22%
Slots for all ages[8]	6,700	6,002	-10%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	67%
Only full-time available	14%
Only part-time available	20%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	91%
Only full-time available	8%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	38%
Homes with before-/after-school care	75%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	23%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Sutter County

"In my area there aren't many choices for weekend care. The places that used to do weekend care have stopped. I may have found the one provider in the area who's open on weekends."

–Priscilla, widowed mother of three young children

A major agricultural center for northern California, Sutter County is home to fewer than 80,000 residents. More than 40 percent of the work force is employed in agricultural or retail jobs. Both of these industries often require weekend and evening shifts, but many parents have difficulty finding licensed child care providers who are willing to accommodate their work schedules. Despite a 13 percent increase in the number of licensed child care slots from 1998 to 2000, just 3 percent of licensed centers and 36 percent of family child care homes offered care during non-traditional hours in 2000. For many families, only relatives and friends (license-exempt providers) are flexible enough to meet their needs.

Financial assistance to help low-income families pay for child care is limited. Although those families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, are guaranteed child care subsidies, other low-income families can spend years on waiting lists for child care subsidies. This can severely limit their child care options. According to a staff member at Children's Home Society of California (CHS), the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, "Some parents are left with no choice but to quit their job and stay home. Low- and medium-wage workers are left in a bind because they want to continue working – and could, if they had assistance with child care."

R&R works to grow supply of child care

CHS is working to build the availability of quality child care countywide. One program, encouraging license-exempt caregivers to become licensed, provides technical assistance and child development and business training to the people caring for so many children in Sutter County. The R&R has partnered with the local child care planning council and the family resource center to recruit new providers and to meet the need for quality care among local communities who speak English, Spanish, and Punjabi.

Drawing attention to child care issues through a media campaign, including public service announcements on how to choose quality child care, is the focus of a collaboration between the R&R and the local child care planning council. An annual event also helps raise awareness of child care issues: On Job Shadow Day, local government officials and business leaders shadow a child care worker in order to experience first-hand what is needed to provide quality care. Participants also learn the challenges of working for a provider's low wages when after several hours of work each community leader receives a mock check for just $15.

For more information about child care in Sutter County, call:

Children's Home Society of California
530-673-7503

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**78,930**
% change in population 1990-2000		23%
Total number of children under 14		17,666
Total number of children under 18		22,869
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	27%	6,060
Total number of children ages 6-13		10,697
Total number of children ages 0-5		6,969
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	26%	1,833
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		28%

Sutter has the 26th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	54%	9,594
% of children ages 6-13	59%	6,316
% of children ages 0-5	47%	3,278

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,689
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	48%
Median annual household income in the county	$36,229
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	27%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$36,349
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,928
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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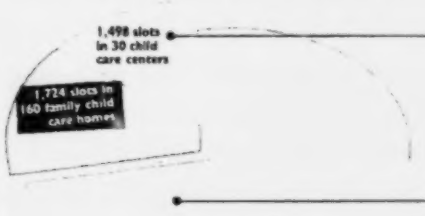
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Sutter County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Sutter County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 3,222 slots

46% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	3% of center slots
Ages 2-5	84% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	13% of center slots

54% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 9,594

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	3,278 children
Ages 6-13	6,316 children

Sutter County ranks 6th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 34% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	32% of calls
Preschool care	35% of calls
School-age care	33% of calls
Family child care homes	99% of calls
Child care centers	58% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	72%
Part-time care	55%
Before- and/or after-school care	27%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	80%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	40%

Requests for part-time care for all children increased from 36 percent in 1998 to 55 percent in 2000, while requests for part-time care for children under six increased from 25 percent to 40 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	17%

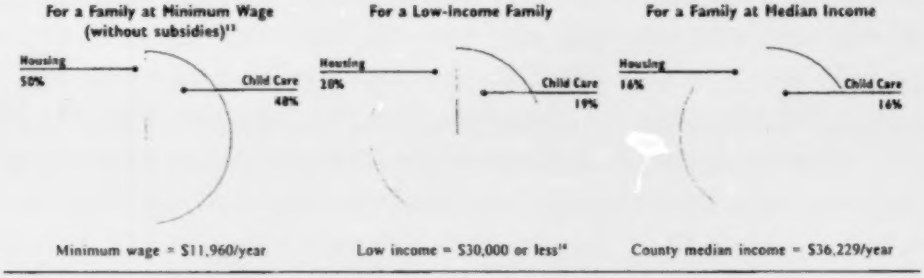
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	31	30	-3%
Slots for infants	24	43	79%
Slots: ages 2-5	1,246	1,259	1%
Slots: ages 6 and over	172	196	14%
Family child care homes	145	160	10%
Slots for all ages[8]	1,412	1,724	22%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	77%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	21%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	98%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	43%
Homes with before-/after-school care	89%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	36%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Tehama County

"I work seven days of graveyard shift, then seven days of swing shift, followed by seven daytime shifts. There just isn't any child care that rotates this much and is available on weekends or after 5 p.m. It was really hard to find a child care provider who was adequate and responsible."

–Rebecca, single mom of two children, ages 5 and 11

The rural nature of northern Tehama County leads to disparities in child care availability. Some isolated areas offer no licensed care options for young families, while, elsewhere, child care providers must compete for clients. Responding to the dearth of care for children whose parents work evenings and weekends – in 2000, no licensed child care centers offered such care, and only 32 percent of family child care homes did – providers have in recent months begun offering more flexible hours of operation in order to keep their enrollment up in a county where the largest employers often require their employees to work night and weekend shifts. Parents who have jobs at retail outlets and the local lumber mill sometimes must patch together a child care schedule that involves help from family, friends, and neighbors when no licensed care is available.

Parents struggle to pay for care

CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, has added to the number of low-wage workers looking for child care. Many low-income families who are not participating in CalWORKs compete for a limited amount of funding for subsidized child care. "Affordability is a major problem for working families who do not earn high salaries," says a supervisor with Child Care Referral and Education, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "More child care subsidies are needed for low-income families who are leaving welfare and those who have never had it."

Adding to parents' financial challenges, housing costs have risen quickly over the past three years, putting a substantial burden on residents who earn minimum wage. These families can seldom afford a car, and a lack of public transportation to the county's more rural areas further limits families' child care options.

License-exempt providers receive training

Since there has been an increase in the number of families turning to license-exempt care in the county, Child Care Referral and Education is creating a new training and support program for these caregivers. Also, to address the needs of Tehama County's growing Latino population, the R&R has targeted Spanish-speaking providers with a recruitment and training program. In both the Spanish-speaking program and that of the license-exempt caregivers, participants learn about children's growth and development, general health and safety practices, and developmentally appropriate children's activities. The R&R is also working with a family child care association, established in Tehama and neighboring Shasta County, to create more opportunities for local training and support.

For more information about child care in Tehama County, call:

Child Care Referral and Education
530-529-3131

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**56,039**
% change in population 1990-2000		13%
Total number of children under 14		11,609
Total number of children under 18		15,374
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	31%	4,751
Total number of children ages 6-13		7,259
Total number of children ages 0-5		4,350
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	29%	1,253
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		34%

Tehama has the 21st highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	48%	5,585
% of children ages 6-13	52%	3,785
% of children ages 0-5	41%	1,800

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

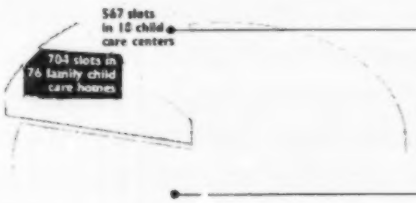
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,846
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$30,067
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	34%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$39,495
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Tehama County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Tehama County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,271 slots

45% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	1% of center slots
Ages 2-5	63% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	36% of center slots

55% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 5,585

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,800 children
Ages 6-13	3,785 children

Tehama County ranks 40th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 23% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	23% of calls
Preschool care	39% of calls
School-age care	38% of calls
Family child care homes	92% of calls
Child care centers	11% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	54%
Part-time care	48%
Before- and/or after-school care	17%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	68%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	33%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 44 percent in 1998 to 68 percent in 2000. Requests for part-time care for children under six decreased from 61 percent to 33 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	15%

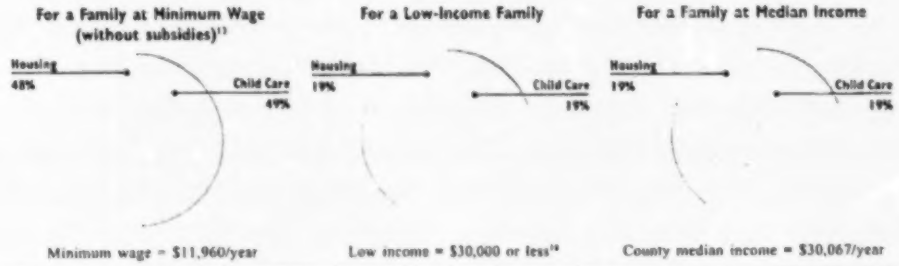
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	17	18	6%
Slots for infants	6	4	-33%
Slots: ages 2-5	291	358	23%
Slots: ages 6 and over	201	205	2%
Family child care homes	87	76	-13%
Slots for all ages[8]	674	704	4%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	43%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	46%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	88%
Only full-time available	11%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	22%
Homes with before-/after-school care	83%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	32%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Trinity County

"I think the amount of child development and early education knowledge a provider has really makes a major difference in a child's life. One of the greatest dilemmas in child care is that providers aren't seen as professionals."

–Kathy, mother of two boys, ages 9 and 10

About 13,000 people live in Trinity County's almost 3,200 square miles, a landscape of thick forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers. The county's economy, once based on timber, has faltered in the wake of several mill closures. Unlike many parts of California, Trinity's population has remained flat in recent years, and the population of children ages 0 to 5 has dropped sharply. This is in part because young families unable to live on the seasonal work provided by tourism and agriculture are the most likely to leave. Local unemployment rates are high and many child care providers see a 20 percent to 25 percent drop in enrollment during the winter months.

Child care need and availability varies

Because of the county's small population, the need for child care can change drastically from one year to the next. "Last year, we had 24 four-year-olds in a program; this year it's half that," says a staff member with Human Response Network, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency. "The variations can really make a difference in program delivery and can complicate efforts to plan for future programs." Declining enrollment has led some child care centers and homes to close, leaving remaining families with fewer options for care. The R&R has recruited several new family child care providers, but many isolated communities simply cannot support licensed care programs because there are not enough children.

Human Response Network estimates that more than half of working parents who receive financial assistance for child care turn to relatives and friends (license-exempt caregivers) to watch their children. "Unfortunately, we're finding that license-exempt caregivers come and go very frequently," says an R&R director. "Sometimes children change caregivers three times a year." To promote quality care in license-exempt settings and licensed family child care homes, two R&R staff members make regular site visits to all caregivers serving children with subsidies in the county, regardless of the caregivers' license status. Home visitors assess caregivers' needs, distribute child development resources, give suggestions for age-appropriate activities and toys, and work to increase awareness about early brain development. The R&R has helped to improve safety at and around child care homes. Together with the county Children and Families Commission, the agency has created a program to invest in new play equipment and computers for family child care homes.

For more information about child care in Trinity County, call:

Human Response Network 530-623-2024

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**13,022**
% change in population 1990-2000		0%
Total number of children under 14		2,119
Total number of children under 18		2,974
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	28%	839
Total number of children ages 6-13		1,423
Total number of children ages 0-5		696
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	18%	124
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		40%

Trinity has the 45th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	52%	1,103
% of children ages 6-13	55%	783
% of children ages 0-5	46%	320

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$29,007
Care for an infant as % of median income	20%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	35%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,745
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,796
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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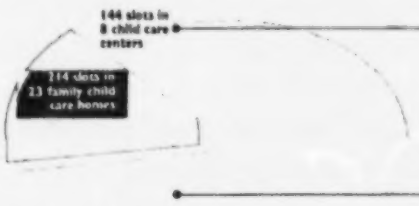
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Trinity County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Trinity County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 358 slots

40% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	0% of center slots
Ages 2-5	76% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	24% of center slots

60% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 1,103

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	320 children
Ages 6-13	783 children

Trinity County ranks 9th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 32% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.1 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	52% of calls
School-age care	17% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	19% of calls
In-home care[10]	3% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	77%
Part-time care	40%
Before- and/or after-school care	19%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	88%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	28%

In 2000, 31 percent of requests were for care for infants/toddlers, up from 8 percent in 1998. The percent of requests for school-age care fell from 40 percent to 17 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	0%

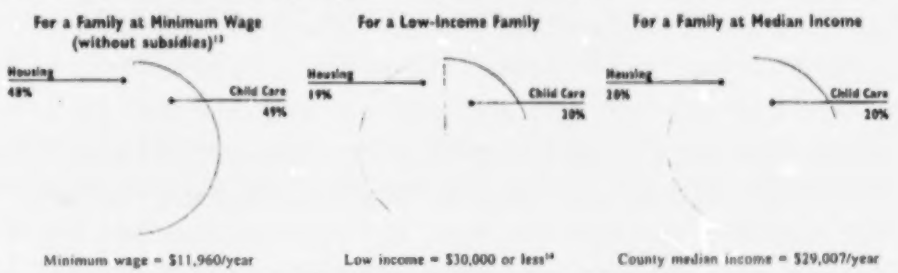
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	11	8	-27%
Slots for infants	0	0	0%
Slots: ages 2-5	139	109	-22%
Slots: ages 6 and over	70	35	-50%
Family child care homes	15	23	53%
Slots for all ages[8]	118	214	81%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	40%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	60%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	93%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	7%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	0%
Homes with before-/after-school care	87%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	20%
In family child care homes	43%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Tulare County

"If it weren't for the child care assistance program, I wouldn't be where I am right now. I worked and went to school from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. There's no way I could have afforded child care for five years without this."

–Monica, recent college graduate and single mother of a kindergartner

Like other Central Valley counties, Tulare is agricultural and its relatively low housing costs have created rapid population growth. However, since job growth has failed to keep pace, unemployment rates remain high and thousands of children live in poverty. Such a high number of families in the local welfare-to-work program were unable to find jobs that, three years ago, the county began paying these families to relocate to areas with better job prospects. Although CalWORKs families receive subsidies to cover child care expenses, fewer subsidies are available for hundreds of other low-income families. More than 2,500 eligible families in the county are on subsidy waiting lists; in some cases, months or even years pass before those families receive assistance.

In Tulare County, many children are cared for by relatives, friends, and neighbors (license-exempt caregivers) so there is a critical need to provide such caregivers with training opportunities. "We need to infuse license-exempt care with information on safety, nutrition, and child development," says a staff member at the local child care resource and referral (R&R) agency in Tulare County's Office of Education. The need for licensed care is especially high among infants and toddlers: in 2000, just one percent of all licensed center slots were reserved for children under 24 months; 77 percent were reserved for preschoolers. Licensed family child care homes are helping to fill the gaps: From 1998 to 2000, the number of slots in these homes jumped 40 percent, and slots in family child care homes accounted for 54 percent of the total, up from 47 percent in 1998.

Training options have expanded

Child care advocates have developed several initiatives to improve the quality and accessibility of local child care. The R&R and the county Children and Families Commission have collaborated on a program to train and support child care providers serving children with special needs. More resources have been made available for Spanish-speaking providers, since more than half of the county's population is Latino. And there is increased interest in early childhood training and education, with about 600 participants attending a county child care conference and almost 2,000 students completing child development classes at local community colleges in the past year. "Still," says an R&R manager, "more needs to be done to improve the health, safety, and quality of child care."

For more information about child care in Tulare County, call:

Tulare County Office of Education
559-651-3026

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**368,021**
% change in population 1990-2000		18%
Total number of children under 14		96,567
Total number of children under 18		124,252
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	40%	49,577
Total number of children ages 6-13		56,715
Total number of children ages 0-5		39,852
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	44%	17,375
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		31%

Tulare has the 2nd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	52%	49,852
% of children ages 6-13	57%	32,446
% of children ages 0-5	44%	17,406

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,591
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	47%
Median annual household income in the county	$29,629
Care for an infant as % of median income	19%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	32%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$36,713
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$6,156
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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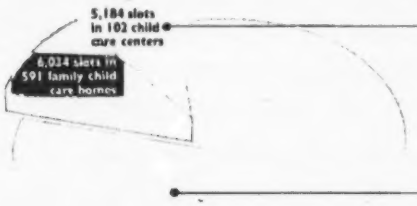
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Tulare County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Tulare County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 11,208 slots

46% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	1% of center slots
Ages 2-5	77% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	22% of center slots

54% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 49,852

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	17,406 children
Ages 6-13	32,446 children

Tulare County ranks 41st among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 22% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.4 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	32% of calls
Preschool care	41% of calls
School-age care	27% of calls
Family child care homes	96% of calls
Child care centers	38% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	89%
Part-time care	25%
Before- and/or after-school care	18%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	88%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	17%

Requests for infant/toddler care increased from 26 percent in 1998 to 32 percent in 2000, while requests for school-age care fell slightly. Thirteen percent of callers requested Spanish-speaking providers in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	23%

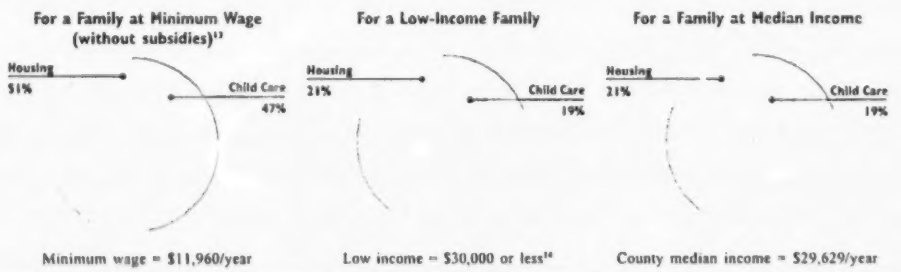
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	100	102	2%
Slots for infants	61	63	3%
Slots: ages 2-5	3,733	3,982	7%
Slots: ages 6 and over	1,055	1,139	8%
Family child care homes	484	591	22%
Slots for all ages[8]	4,318	6,024	40%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	48%
Only full-time available	25%
Only part-time available	27%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	86%
Only full-time available	13%
Only part-time available	1%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	36%
Homes with before-/after-school care	87%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	44%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



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14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Tuolumne County

"I've spent a lot of money sending my daughter to different recreational programs this summer. I shuffle her from place to place, which means lots of transition, and I don't think that's really great for a child. I had to take off work at midday to drive her to another program in a different part of the county. It takes a toll in time and energy for both of us."

–Erin, mother of a 9-year-old

The population in Tuolumne County has increased 12% over the past decade, although the number of children 0-5 has declined. Despite this decrease, there is still not a sufficient supply of child care to meet the needs of families. Housing prices have climbed, at a time when many young families already are struggling to make ends meet. Two major employers had large layoffs of well-paid employees, prompting some families to move out of the area or to need two incomes. Much of the recent job growth has been in positions that pay modest wages, such as retail, hospitality, and food industry work. These jobs often require rotating shifts and evenings and weekends, yet none of the county's licensed centers – which accounted for 64 percent of the total licensed slots in 2000 – provide care during non-traditional hours.

Geographic isolation restricts access to child care

Communities scattered throughout the county's mountainous terrain are often isolated from child care facilities. Living miles from the closest town can hinder some families' ability to transport their children to and from child care. During summer and school vacations, licensed school-age care is so limited that families are challenged to find a safe place for their children.

Staff at Infant/Child Enrichment Services (ICES), the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, say many child care providers, particularly experienced ones, are leaving the profession. "Child care workers earn very low wages," says an R&R manager. "Providers can find better-paying jobs, and this is decreasing the availability of licensed care."

To recruit new providers and offer incentives to those staying in the profession, the R&R administers grants to help new providers cover their initial expenses and to assist experienced caregivers wishing to continue their education. ICES and the Children and Families Commission are collaborating to offer further financial incentives. A recently implemented mentoring program is helping to link new caregivers with experienced ones. "New providers benefit from the moral support of their mentors," explains an R&R staff member. "We hope the program reduces the amount of turnover among experienced providers, who appreciate the opportunity for professional growth."

A recent media campaign sponsored by the R&R and the child care planning council has helped educate parents about quality care.

For more information about child care in Tuolumne County, call:

Infant/Child Enrichment Services
209-533-0377

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**54,501**
% change in population 1990-2000		12%
Total number of children under 14		8,259
Total number of children under 18		11,300
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	24%	2,667
Total number of children ages 6-13		5,288
Total number of children ages 0-5		2,971
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	29%	862
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]	33%	

Tuolumne has the 20th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	57%	4,787
% of children ages 6-13	65%	3,422
% of children ages 0-5	46%	1,365

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

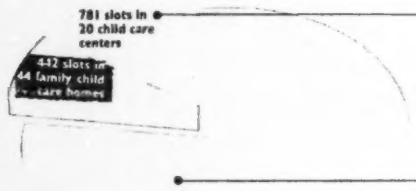
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,580
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$36,267
Care for an infant as % of median income	18%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$42,215
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$7,404
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Tuolumne County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Tuolumne County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,223 slots

64% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	58% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	38% of center slots

36% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 4,787

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	1,365 children
Ages 6-13	3,422 children

Tuolumne County ranks 34th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.9 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	29% of calls
Preschool care	42% of calls
School-age care	30% of calls
Family child care homes	89% of calls
Child care centers	27% of calls
In-home care[10]	0% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	47%
Part-time care	54%
Before- and/or after-school care	7%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	48%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	52%

Requests for full-time care for children under six increased from 35 percent in 1998 to 48 percent in 2000; requests for part-time care for children under six decreased from 67 percent to 52 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	9%

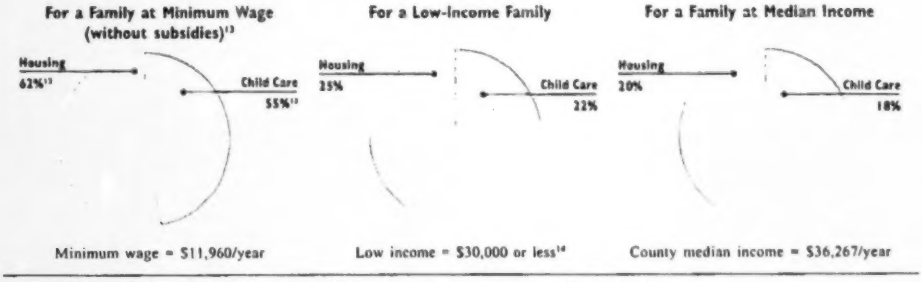
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	21	20	-5%
Slots for infants	0	28	NA
Slots: ages 2-5	502	454	-10%
Slots: ages 6 and over	275	299	9%
Family child care homes	51	44	-14%
Slots for all ages[8]	414	442	7%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	48%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	45%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	90%
Only full-time available	7%
Only part-time available	4%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	50%
Homes with before-/after-school care	64%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	0%
In family child care homes	43%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Ventura County

"For all the money that the government spends, I really feel that the most important people we need to be spending it on are these little kids. If they don't get guidance and direction from the time they're little, everybody will pay later."

–Cynthia, guardian grandparent of a 3-year-old

Located between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara counties, Ventura County has experienced more population growth than these neighboring counties and a comparable rise in housing prices. Child care costs increased significantly in recent years, according to Child Development Resources, the county's resource and referral (R&R) agency. Financial assistance is available for families participating in CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, but there is not enough funding to provide assistance to at least 13,000 other low-income children who are eligible for subsidies. Child care is often a major expense for families, especially those headed by a single parent. The population of one-parent households is growing in Ventura County, with the number of single fathers alone increasing by 62 percent in the past decade.

There is a shortage of licensed care

Although the number of licensed child care slots in Ventura County has risen, the supply is still insufficient to meet demand. Infant care is extremely limited, as child care providers opt to teach preschoolers, for whom a lower staff-to-child ratio is acceptable. And although there was a 52 percent increase in licensed center slots for children ages six and over from 1998 to 2000, the need for such care is not being met. Family child care providers are sometimes reluctant to reserve slots for children who need care for only a few hours a day, according to the R&R. "Right now, there isn't enough space in these programs," says a staff member. Families with children with special needs also have trouble finding caregivers trained to handle their children's special circumstances.

Parents may spend months searching for a licensed child care setting that is open on weekends and evenings when they work. The problem is exacerbated in the more rural areas, where less care tends to be available. Transportation can be another obstacle, especially for families with school-age children who have no way of getting from their elementary school to an after-school program.

Training efforts are underway

Ventura County's Children and Families Commission has awarded the R&R a grant to supplement its efforts to recruit and train infant care providers through the Child Care Initiative Project. With this grant, caregivers who attend training in child development are rewarded with equipment, toys, and other materials to enhance the learning environment in their family child care homes. The county's CARES (Compensation and Retention Encourages Stability) program, sponsored in part by the local child care planning council and the state Department of Education, provides financial incentives for child care workers who stay in the profession.

For more information about child care in Ventura County, call:

Child Development Resources
of Ventura County, Inc. 805-485-7878

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**753,197**
% change in population 1990-2000		13%
Total number of children under 14		168,047
Total number of children under 18		214,244
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	17%	35,565
Total number of children ages 6-13		99,680
Total number of children ages 0-5		68,367
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	19%	12,648
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		18%

Ventura has the 42nd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	60%	102,218
% of children ages 6-13	65%	64,512
% of children ages 0-5	55%	37,706

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

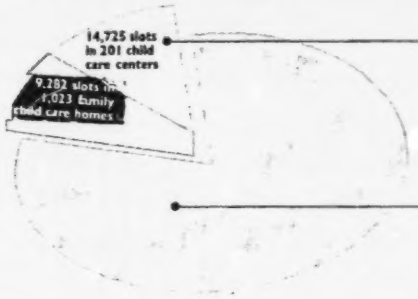
Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$8,690
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	73%
Median annual household income in the county	$53,379
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	27%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$51,036
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$9,732
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

Excerpted from *The California Child Care Portfolio* ©2001 (permission to reproduce granted), available through your local R&R. For data source information, see the full edition of the *Portfolio*.

1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Ventura County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Ventura County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 24,007 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	4% of center slots
Ages 2-5	67% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	29% of center slots

39% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 102,218

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	37,706 children
Ages 6-13	64,512 children

Ventura County ranks 39th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 23% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 4.3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	44% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	97% of calls
Child care centers	63% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	85%
Part-time care	20%
Before- and/or after-school care	13%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	87%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	17%

Requests for full-time care rose from 79 percent of calls in 1998 to 85 percent in 2000, while requests for part-time care dropped from 31 percent to 20 percent.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	6%

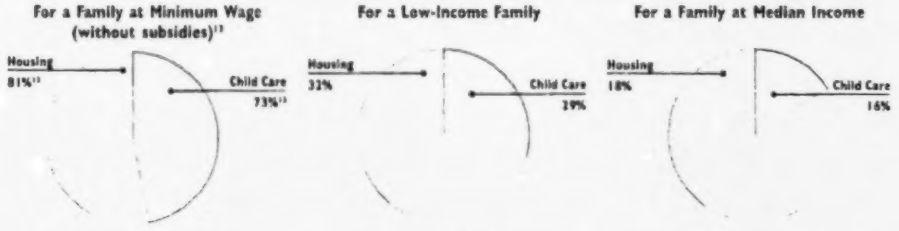
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	195	201	3%
Slots for infants	524	547	4%
Slots: ages 2-5	9,620	9,913	3%
Slots: ages 6 and over	2,813	4,265	52%
Family child care homes	1,084	1,023	-6%
Slots for all ages[8]	8,816	9,282	5%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	81%
Only full-time available	2%
Only part-time available	17%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	88%
Only full-time available	9%
Only part-time available	3%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	59%
Homes with before-/after-school care	73%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	28%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Yolo County

"I don't want to have to take a second job just to pay for day care. There are many times when I almost took a second job to pay the bills, but then I wouldn't have had any time at all with my kids."

–Dana, working mom of twin 7-year-olds and a 5-year-old.

With its thriving university in Davis and close proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area, Yolo County has seen the cost of living rise along with its population. In Davis, home prices have increased significantly, putting pressure on housing costs in neighboring towns, such as Woodland and Winters. These factors have affected child care demand. "We have child care providers who have left the state because of the cost of housing and the utility nightmare," says a supervisor with City of Davis – Child Care Services, the local resource and referral (R&R) agency.

Many families rely on child care subsidies from CalWORKs, the state's welfare-to-work program, but assistance is harder to obtain for other low-income families. A waiting list contains thousands of names of eligible families who struggle to make ends meet but must compete for limited funding. These parents say that subsidies would expand their child care options and provide them better access to licensed care, which can be out of reach for many.

Child care supply does not meet demand

The total supply of licensed child care has increased since 1998, but need remains. Families who have moved to rural areas of the county in search of lower-cost housing may spend months looking for suitable child care. Parents of infants also face obstacles, because almost all infant care providers have long waiting lists. The county has seen steady job growth, especially in service and retail positions; with these jobs comes a surge in demand for flexible child care to accommodate parents who work weekends, evenings, or rotating schedules. "The supply of care hasn't kept up with demand," says an R&R staff member, "especially for parents with infants and parents who have odd-hour work schedules."

As a part of the city of Davis government, the R&R reaches out to student parents attending the University of California at Davis, helping them meet their need for care during unusual hours at an affordable price. Information about choosing quality child care is available on the organization's Web site, a popular resource among college students.

To increase child care availability and diversity, the R&R offers classes and orientation in Spanish and Russian. In collaboration with the county Children and Families Commission, the R&R has begun a home-visiting program that lends technical assistance to family child care providers, with particular focus on providers who care for children with special needs. This program has helped with retention of family child care providers.

For more information about child care in Yolo County, call:

City of Davis – Child Care Services 530-757-5691

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**168,660**
% change in population 1990-2000		20%
Total number of children under 14		33,128
Total number of children under 18		42,479
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	24%	10,025
Total number of children ages 6-13		19,774
Total number of children ages 0-5		13,354
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	23%	3,125
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		22%

Yolo has the 32nd highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	59%	19,516
% of children ages 6-13	63%	12,447
% of children ages 0-5	53%	7,069

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$6,573
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	55%
Median annual household income in the county	$41,567
Care for an infant as % of median income	16%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	30%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$45,693
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$8,076
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

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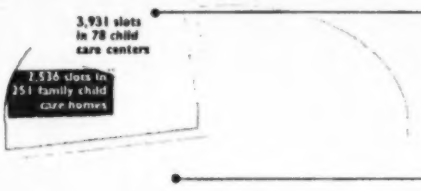
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Yolo County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Yolo County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 6,467 slots

61% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	8% of center slots
Ages 2-5	67% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	25% of center slots

39% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 19,516

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	7,069 children
Ages 6-13	12,447 children

Yolo County ranks 7th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 33% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	33% of calls
Preschool care	43% of calls
School-age care	25% of calls
Family child care homes	84% of calls
Child care centers	25% of calls
In-home care[10]	3% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	57%
Part-time care	43%
Before- and/or after-school care	10%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	58%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	42%

Requests for in-home care fell from 7 percent in 1998 to 3 percent in 2000. Seven percent of callers requested a Spanish-speaking provider in 2000.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	5%

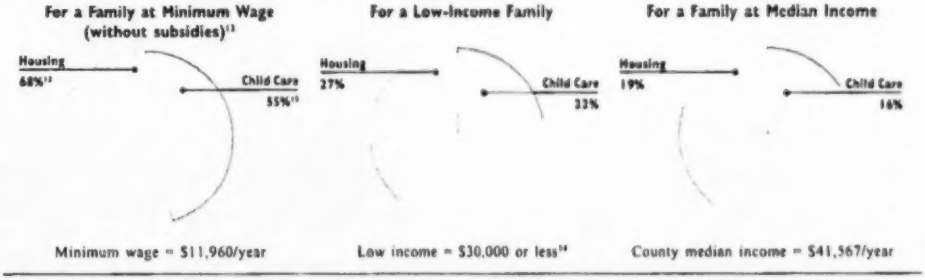
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	71	78	10%
Slots for infants	313	295	-6%
Slots: ages 2-5	2,459	2,648	8%
Slots: ages 6 and over	803	988	23%
Family child care homes	279	251	-10%
Slots for all ages[8]	2,698	2,536	-6%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	78%
Only full-time available	1%
Only part-time available	21%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	73%
Only full-time available	16%
Only part-time available	11%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	34%
Homes with before-/after-school care	79%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	2%
In family child care homes	23%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
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11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Yuba County

"I work for a grocery store. We're open all hours so it's hard to find child care."

–Brenda, single mother of a 9-year-old

The economic boom that most of California experienced during the 1990s did not have much effect in Yuba County, where many of the available jobs are in retail, fast food, light manufacturing, and health care. Higher-than-average rates of unemployment and poverty in the county make affording child care difficult for many families. "There is not enough financial assistance for child care in this county," says an administrator with the local resource and referral (R&R) agency, Children's Home Society of California. "Those families who are not participating in the CalWORKs program and are in low- to medium-wage jobs have nowhere to turn and sometimes can't keep a job. They want to continue working but can't because, without assistance, they cannot afford child care."

Parents who work nights, weekends, and rotating shifts find that there are few licensed child care providers who can accommodate their schedules. Parents with school-age children have trouble finding care during the summer months, and a growing number of families with children with special needs say more special needs care is needed in this rural county.

Infant care is scarce

Very few child care centers in Yuba County serve infants, and many parents must drive their youngest children to child care in neighboring counties. Families in the most remote communities have few options for licensed care, so many turn to relatives and friends (license-exempt care). Children's Home Society of California has worked with the county Children and Families Commission to establish a program that helps license-exempt caregivers become licensed.

Because the R&R has an office housed in the Department of Human Services, many families participating in CalWORKs, the state welfare-to-work program, have learned more about how to choose quality child care, and some are considering becoming child care providers themselves. The Child Care Initiative Project of the California Department of Education has created incentive funds for new providers willing to work non-traditional hours or with infants and special needs children. As a result, there is more child care available now than there was two years ago. Still, R&R staff say, more needs to be done to raise awareness about the importance of quality care. As one administrator puts it: "Educating the community, employers, and legislators about child care is a top priority."

The People

Total number of residents in the county		**60,219**
% change in population 1990-2000		3%
Total number of children under 14		14,568
Total number of children under 18		18,690
% of children ages 0-17 living in poverty[1]	38%	7,121
Total number of children ages 6-13		8,566
Total number of children ages 0-5		6,002
% of children ages 0-5 living in poverty[1]	33%	1,957
Families with children 0-5, headed by single parent[2]		31%

Yuba has the 10th highest rate of child poverty among California's 58 counties.

Children of Working Parents[3]

Children living with working parents[4]		
% of children ages 0-13	43%	6,313
% of children ages 6-13	48%	4,095
% of children ages 0-5	37%	2,218

Child Care Costs, Family Income, and Child Care Salaries

Average annual cost of full-time, licensed care in a center, for an infant up to 24 months	$5,912
Annual minimum wage of full-time worker	$11,960
Care for an infant as % of minimum wage	49%
Median annual household income in the county	$28,793
Care for an infant as % of median income	21%
Care for two children as % of median income[5]	34%
Self sufficiency family income[6]	$38,442
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	$5,928
Salary of child care worker[7]	$17,420
Salary of preschool teacher[7]	$21,130
Salary of entry-level public school teacher[7]	$25,433

For more information about child care in Yuba County, call:

Children's Home Society of California
530-673-7503

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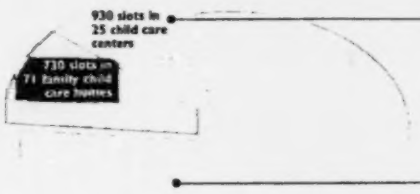
1. Percentage based on 1997 average poverty threshold for a family of four: $16,050. Numbers estimated for 2000 population. (2000 data not available by county, at publication.)
2. Includes male and female heads of households with own children.
3. Nationally, 51% of children 0-5 with working parents are estimated to be in child care.
4. Children living with two employed parents or an employed single head of household.
5. Full-time care at a licensed child care center for an infant (up to 24 months) and a child (age 2-5).
6. For two working adults, one infant (up to 24 months) and one child (age 2-5).
7. Statewide averages; public elementary school teacher salary based on school year.

Child Care Supply in Yuba County

Licensed child care still meets only a small fraction of the need in Yuba County.



Licensed Child Care Supply = 1,660 slots

56% of all slots are in child care centers

Up to 24 months	2% of center slots
Ages 2-5	93% of center slots
Ages 6 and over	5% of center slots

44% of all slots are in family child care homes[8]

Children Needing Child Care = 6,313

Children with working parents

Ages 0-5	2,218 children
Ages 6-13	4,095 children

Yuba County ranks 27th among California's 58 counties in its supply of licensed child care slots, as represented by this ratio.

Licensed child care supply meets only 26% of the estimated need for licensed care for children of all ages. There are 3.8 times more children, ages 0-13, with working parents than licensed child care slots.

Child Care Requests to R&Rs[9]

Type of care requested	
Infant/toddler care	31% of calls
Preschool care	38% of calls
School-age care	31% of calls
Family child care homes	100% of calls
Child care centers	52% of calls
In-home care[10]	1% of calls

Schedules requested	
Full-time care	80%
Part-time care	49%
Before- and/or after-school care	25%
Full-time care, children ages 0-5	85%
Part-time care, children ages 0-5	36%

Requests for before- and after- school care increased from 14 percent to 25 percent between 1998 and 2000. Requests for care during non-traditional hours increased slightly.

Requests for care during non-traditional hours[11]	
Evening, overnight, or weekend care	16%

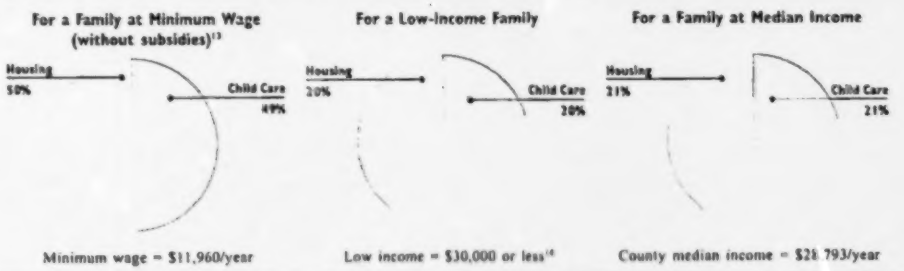
Licensed Child Care Supply

Facilities	1998	2000	Change
Child care centers	21	25	19%
Slots for infants	0	21	N/A
Slots: ages 2-5	664	864	30%
Slots: ages 6 and over	30	45	50%
Family child care homes	62	71	15%
Slots for all ages[8]	542	730	35%

Schedules offered	
Of *all* slots in licensed child care centers	
Full-time and part-time	62%
Only full-time available	0%
Only part-time available	38%
Of *all* slots in licensed family child care homes	
Full-time and part-time	97%
Only full-time available	3%
Only part-time available	0%
Centers with before-/after-school care[12]	37%
Homes with before-/after-school care	96%

Care available during non-traditional hours	
In licensed and license-exempt centers[12]	3%
In family child care homes	38%

Portion of Income Needed to Pay for Basic Family Needs: Housing and One Infant in a Licensed Center



8. A breakdown of slots by age is not available, as family child care homes are licensed to care for children of all ages.
9. Percentage may total more or less than 100% because of rounding or because in some categories callers request more than one type of care. In some cases percentages could be less than 100% because not all types of care are noted in these data. (These requests would be noted as "other.") Also, since some parents find child care without using R&Rs, the calls recorded here do not necessarily represent total demand for child care, although they do reflect trends.
10. Care by a nanny or babysitter in the child's home. This, along with other forms of care, is referred to as license-exempt care.
11. Evening, overnight, or weekend care.
12. Some programs noted here are exempt from licensing requirements.
13. When the combined actual percentages for housing and child care costs are more than 100% of minimum wage, each is shown proportionately.
14. While "low income" is defined here as households earning less than $30,000, eligibility for child care subsidies is based on 75% of the state median income level. In 2000, a family of three earning less than $33,852 was eligible for a child care subsidy.

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Glossary

Terms Frequently Used in Discussions about Child Care

Alternative Payment (AP) program
A program of child care subsidy vouchers for low-income families administered through the California Department of Education and the Department of Social Services.

before- and after-school care
Programs where school-age children can be in supervised care before school begins and after school is out until the end of the work day.

CalWORKs
California's welfare-to-work program, which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in 1997. CalWORKs requires parents receiving welfare to get training and find jobs and provides child care subsidies to enable parents to work. The child care subsidies can be used to pay for licensed and license-exempt care.

CARES - Compensation and Retention Encourage Stability (AB 212 – Aroner)
State legislation passed in 2000 to provide financial incentives to providers in state-funded child care programs who get additional training and education. Many counties have used Proposition 10 and other local funds to build and expand their local CARES initiatives.

child care center
A facility that is licensed to provide care of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and/or school-age children all or part of the day. Centers may be large or small and can be operated independently or by a church or other organization. Most centers are licensed by the state Department of Social Services (DSS).

child care worker
Defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as someone who attends to children at child care centers, schools, businesses, or institutions and performs a variety of tasks such as dressing, feeding, bathing, and overseeing play. (See *preschool teacher*.)

Child Protective Services (CPS)
A program administered by the Department of Social Services to help children at risk of abuse or neglect within their families.

Children and Families Partnership (Prop. 10)
State commission created by Proposition 10, the tobacco-tax initiative, to fund a comprehensive, integrated system of early childhood development services for all children prenatal to five years of age. (Formerly California Children and Families Commission.)

county-based Children and Families commissions
Commissions that disburse local funds provided by Prop. 10, for health and early care and education programs for children from prenatal to age five.

family child care home
Care offered in the home of the provider. Small family child care homes usually care for up to eight children, depending on their ages. Large family child care homes have at least two adults and can care for up to 14 children, depending on their ages. Family child care homes are licensed by the DSS.

Head Start/Early Head Start

A federally funded program for low-income families with children ages three to five (Head Start). Early Head Start is for childern prenatal to two. In addition to child care and early learning programs, these programs offer health care and parent training. Head Start programs are licensed by the DSS.

infant/toddler care

Care for children under 24 months of age.

in-home care

Full-time or part-time child care arrangement where a friend, relative, or nanny cares for a child in the child's home.

license-exempt care

Child care which does not require a state license, it is sometimes referred to simply as "exempt care." License-exempt care includes care at the provider's home (if all of the children are from one family), in-home care, and certain centers for school-age children or military child care programs regulated by other agencies.

local child care planning councils

State-mandated commissions in each county who identify local child care priorities, develop policies, and make recommendations about the allocation of child care funds.

non-traditional hours

Work hours other than 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., including evening, overnight, or weekend shifts. Child care needed during these hours is sometimes referred to as "odd-hour" care.

preschool teacher

Defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as someone who instructs children (up to five years old) in activities designed to promote social, physical, and intellectual growth needed for primary school, in a preschool, child care center, or other child development facilities. A preschool teacher may be required to have a state certificate.

rotating shifts

Work schedules that change, often weekly.

school-age care

Care for elementary and middle-school students which may be provided in homes or center-based settings, sometimes on school grounds.

Self-Sufficiency Standard

The Self-Sufficiency Standard as used in the Portfolio defines how much income is needed for a family of two adults, one infant, and one preschooler in each county to adequately meet basic needs (including taxes) without public or private assistance.

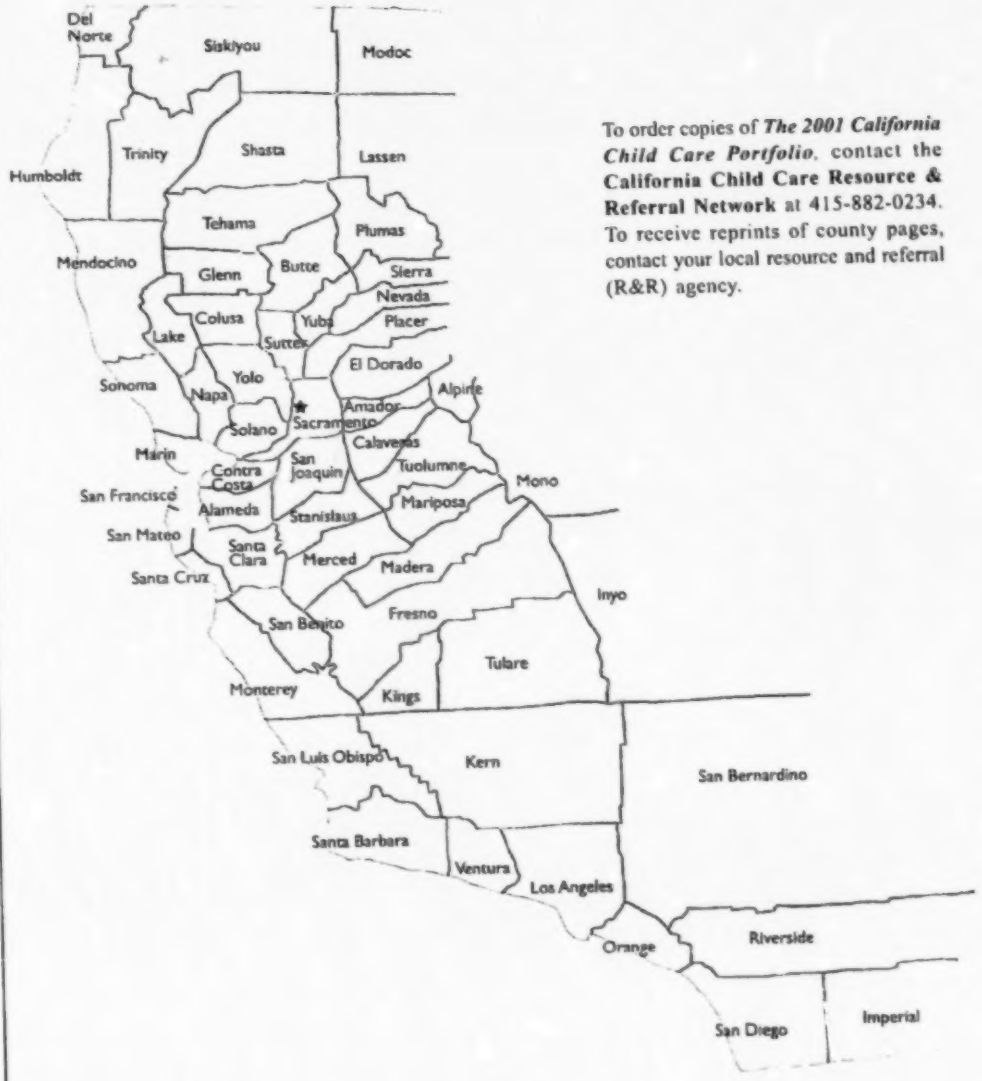
slot

Space for one child in a licensed family child care home or center.

subsidized care

Financial assistance from state or federal funds available to low-income families who meet the state's income eligibility requirements. This type of care is available in licensed child care centers, in family child care homes, and by license-exempt providers.

How to Reach the R&Rs



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Alameda County
Bananas 510-658-7353
Child Care Links 925-417-8733
4C's of Alameda County 510-582-2182

Alpine County
Choices for Children 530-694-2129

Amador County
Child Care Resources 209-223-1625

Butte County
Valley Oak Children's Services 530-895-1677

Calaveras County
Child Care Resources 209-754-1028

Colusa County
Children's Services 530-458-0300

Contra Costa County
Contra Costa Child Care Council 925-676-5442

Del Norte County
Del Norte Child Care Council 707-464-8311

El Dorado County
Choices for Children 530-676-0707

Fresno County
Central Valley Children's Services Network 559-456-1100

Glenn County
Office of Education, Child Care Resource & Referral 530-865-1118

Humboldt County
Humboldt Child Care Council 707-444-8293

Imperial County
Imperial County Child Development Services 760-312-6431

Inyo County
Child Care Connection 760-873-5123

Kern County
Community Connection for Child Care 661-861-5200

Kings County
Kings County Community Action Organization 559-582-4386

Lake County
NCO–Rural Communities Child Care 707-462-1954

Lassen County
Lassen Child & Family Resources 530-257-9781

Los Angeles County
Child care referral, county-wide 1-800-543-7793

Madera County
Madera County Community Action Agency 559-675-8469

Marin County
Marin Child Care Council 415-479-2273

Mariposa County
Infant/Child Enrichment Services 209-966-4474

Mendocino County
NCO–Rural Communities Child Care 707-462-1954

Merced County
Children's Services Network 209-722-3804

Modoc County
Modoc Child Care R&R 530-233-KIDS

Mono County
Community Connection for Children 760-934-3543

Monterey County
Monterey County Child Care R&R 831-757-0775

Napa County
Community Resources for Children 707-253-0376

Nevada County
Sierra Nevada Children's Services 530-272-8866

Orange County
Children's Home Society of California 714-835-8252

Placer County
Office of Education - Child Care Services 530-886-4936

Plumas County
Plumas Rural Services 530-283-6453

Riverside County
Riverside County Office of Education,
Children's Services Unit 909-826-6178

Sacramento County
Child Action, Inc 916-369-0191

San Benito County
GeKids, Inc 831-637-9205

San Bernardino County
San Bernardino County Schools
Child Development Services 909-384-1492

San Diego County
YMCA Childcare Resource Service 619-521-3055

San Francisco County
Children's Council of San Francisco 415-276-2900
Wu Yee Children's Services 415-391-4721

San Joaquin County
Family Resource & Referral Center 209-948-1546

San Luis Obispo County
EOC - Child Care Resource Connection 805-541-2272

San Mateo County
Child Care Coordinating Council 650-696-8780

Santa Barbara County
Children's Resource & Referral 805-925-7071

Santa Clara County
Community Child Care Council
of Santa Clara County 408-487-0747

Santa Cruz County
Child Development Resource Center 831-479-5282

Shasta County
Office of Education, Early Childhood Services 530-225-2975

Sierra County
Sierra Nevada Children's Services 530-993-1288

Siskiyou County
Siskiyou Child Care Council 530-938-2748

Solano County
Solano Family & Children's Services 707-863-3950

Sonoma County
4Cs of Sonoma County 707-544-3077
River Child Care Services 707-869-3613

Stanislaus County
Stanislaus County Office of Education,
Child Care Resource and Referral Program 209-558-4050

Sutter County
Children's Home Society of California 530-673-7503

Tehama County
Child Care Referral and Education 530-529-3131

Trinity County
Human Response Network 530-623-3026

Tulare County
Tulare County Office of Education 559-651-0862

Tuolumne County
Infant/Child Enrichment Services 209-533-0377

Ventura County
Child Development Resources of Ventura County 805-483-7878

Yolo County
City of Davis - Child Care Services 530-757-5691

Yuba County
Children's Home Society of California 530-673-7503

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Acknowledgements

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*After School Adventures Program, Bella Vista; Violet Skeeters Family Child Care, Redding; Little Mud Puddles, Fremont; Hacienda Head Start, Fremont; Adrienne Moore Family Child Care, Los Angeles; Magnolia Avenue Baptist Preschool, Riverside; Brenda Nolan, Riverside; Maria Rios Family Child Care, Shafter; West Hollywood Preschool; Gina Ortiz Family Child Care, Los Angeles; Sabrina Pugh Family Child Care, Los Angeles; Greater Richmond Child Care Center; Judith Ashley Family Child Care, Sebastopol; Liliana Fischer Family Child Care, Sebastopol; Jackie Robins Family Child Care, Monte Rio; Alma's Garden Child Care Center, Oakland; Bahia School-Age Program, Berkeley; Bayshore Child Care Services, Daly City; Bella Haven Child Development Center, Menlo Park; Redwood City Child Development Center; Wu Yee Children's Services, San Francisco; and Pacific Primary School, San Francisco.

** Region Broadcasting, Redding; Showtime Cable, Fremont; Atlas Sales, Newark; Fremont Swim School; *The Press Enterprise*, Riverside; Bakersfield Credit Control; and Palla Farmers, Shafter.

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